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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 reconstruction, 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

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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 Resolution 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 Natural 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 insurance 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 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. 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 quality 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 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 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, members 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.—

(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 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) 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. 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) FACA 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 Provost 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 Provost 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 mandates 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 ''within'' 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''; and

(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''; 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.''; and

(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''; 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)''; and

(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''; and

(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.''; and

(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''; and

(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 1/17 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 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, Minnijean 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 Members 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 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 impact 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 heartbreaking 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 ayes 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 ayes 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 presence 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 location 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 opportunities 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
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (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)
Eshoo
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
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
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)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
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
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
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
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
Sánchez, 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
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
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
Capps
Carson
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Delahunt
DeLauro
Engel
Etheridge
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Herger
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
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
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
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
DeLauro
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
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
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
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
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)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
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
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
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
Sessions
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
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—45

Berry
Bishop (GA)
Brady (TX)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Capps
Carson
Cleaver
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
Delahunt
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Herger
Honda
Hunter
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lucas
Marshall
Murphy (CT)
Neal (MA)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
Snyder
Stupak
Tiahrt
Towns
Waters
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1902

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. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 891 & 892, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1199, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 4, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 893]

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
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
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
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
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
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
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
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
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
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
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
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
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
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
Sessions
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
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—4

Broun (GA)
Flake
Paul
Rohrabacher

NOT VOTING—39

Berry
Bishop (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Capps
Carson
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Delahunt
Grijalva

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

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
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (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
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
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
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
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
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
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
Loebsack
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
Olver
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)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—42

Berry
Bishop (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Capps
Carson
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Delahunt
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Herger
Honda
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kucinich
LaHood
Lantos
Lucas
Manzullo
McCarthy (NY)
Murphy (CT)
Neal (MA)
Pickering
Poe
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
Sessions
Snyder
Stupak
Tiahrt
Towns
Waters
Westmoreland
Whitfield

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.

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 gentlewoman 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 gentlewoman 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 citizens. 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 Caucus 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 gentlewoman 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.

□ 2000

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 Wilson 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?

□ 2015

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 chagrinned 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 payfors. 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 wrestling 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 concerned 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, lifesaving 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 SCRIP. 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.

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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 thank 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 reneging, 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 spenders, 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 themselves, 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 overtaxed. 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. ROHRABACHER, 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 programs, 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 pursing 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. BOUCHER):

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. HINCHEY, 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 patroling 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 reserach 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 Congress 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. ROHRABACHER 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. HINCHEY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WYNN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, 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. MATHESON, 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-PORTER.
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. SHIMKUS.
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.

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:

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.

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.

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Shepherd of love, as we begin today's legislative session, we pause to acknowledge Your sovereignty. You sit enthroned between the cherubim, so shower us with gifts from Your bounty.

Today, lead our lawmakers beside still waters and replenish their spirits with Your power. As they grapple with the challenges of our time, give them a faith that will not shrink when facing formidable obstacles. Lord, provide them with wisdom to hear Your voice and the courage to obey Your counsel. Remind them that success comes not by might or power but by Your spirit.

Let Your hand rest on our Nation, and lead it to a greatness that glorifies You. Hasten the day when Your kingdom shall reign.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want Senator BYRD and the minority response to have the full hour. So when Senator MCCONNELL and I finish whatever remarks we would give, I hope there will be unanimous consent that they could both have a full half hour.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business until shortly after 3 o'clock, with the time equally divided and controlled. The majority will control the first part, with Senator BYRD taking our time. The final portion will be controlled by the Republicans.

Shortly after 3 p.m., the Senate will proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. The debate time on that conference report will extend until quarter to 6 tonight. The majority manager, Senator BOXER, and Senator INHOFE will be here shortly after 3 to proceed forward with the debate.

Mr. President, I have to comment on this remarkable piece of legislative work. Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE—you could have no two different political ideologies than the two of them. One is the chairman of the committee, one is the ranking member. That was reversed—INHOFE was the chairman, BOXER was the ranking member last year. They worked together well last year, and they worked extremely well together this year, as evidenced by this bill, which I think sets a good example for all of us here. You do not have to have ideological parity to get things done around here. This is a good example of that.

The vote on the conference report is expected around 5:45 p.m. today. This could never, ever have been accomplished without these two Senators working together. Once the Senate completes action on the conference report this evening, we will decide what we have to do. We have a lot to do this week. I am going to spend some time with the Republican leader and determine how we are going to accomplish what we have to do.

We have, perhaps, SCHIP, we have a continuing resolution, we have a debt limit extension, and we have to finish this bill, which means we probably will not finish this bill this week, but it is something we have to do. So everyone should watch closely what is going on, and we will try to work our way through this. There have been a number of procedural hurdles to get through.

I yield the floor.

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

MAHMUD AHMADI-NEJAD'S UNITED STATES VISIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad's visit to New York. The ostensible purpose of this

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

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visit is to address the United Nations General Assembly, but Ahmadi-Nejad will have accomplished much more than that by the time he leaves. By opening its gates to this man's hateful ideology, Columbia University is allowing him to take full advantage of a golden opportunity to spread it and giving it a level of deference it, frankly, does not deserve.

It is one thing for a foreign leader, even one as disreputable as Ahmadi-Nejad, to visit the U.N. and remain confined to the grounds of the U.N. As a head of state, he is legally entitled to visit the United Nations. It is quite another to give a man who has referred to the United States as the ''Great Satan'' and who denies the Holocaust a coveted platform from which to speak.

Let's consider for a minute what Iran has said and done during his Presidency. Iran actively supports militias that undermine the rule of law and export weapons that are killing our U.S. soldiers and marines in Iraq. Iran is actively pursuing a nuclear program that puts it on a path toward possessing nuclear weapons. Iran is a state sponsor of terror. Iran supports proxies that are undercutting attempts to bring peace, reconciliation, and democracy to Lebanon. Ahmadi-Nejad has called for Israel, one of America's closest allies, to be wiped off the map. Iran supports proxies in Syria and Gaza that are actively trying to goad Israel into war and undercutting the efforts to facilitate peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Ahmadi-Nejad has denied that the Holocaust ever took place, calling it a myth. He even hosted a convention of Holocaust deniers.

It is hard to imagine any nation on earth that threatens U.S. interests and those of its allies much more than Iran. It is equally hard to imagine any greater American university of generations past inviting a world leader to its campus who supported groups that kill U.S. soldiers and marines. Think of the irony: Columbia University, home of the core curriculum that prizes an in-depth understanding of Western civilization and the free exchange of ideas, is bringing to its campus a state sponsor of terror. A school that rejected the ROTC in 2005 on the grounds that the ''don't ask, don't tell'' policy discriminated against gays now welcomes a man whose government reportedly executes them.

Whether Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad should be speaking at Columbia should not be the subject of a philosophical debate. He already rejected that debate by leading a regime which has chosen terrorism over reason and open dialog. Under Ahmadi-Nejad, the Iranian regime trains, funds, and exports terror. Defense Department sources tell us that explosively formed penetrators, the most lethal form of improvised explosive devices used against our forces in Iraq, are being manufactured in Iran.

I was heartened to see some common sense was injected into the Iranian leader's visit when the New York City Police Department denied his request to visit Ground Zero and lay a wreath. Looking at Ahmadi-Nejad's record on terror, one wonders whether the wreath was meant to honor the victims of the World Trade Center attacks or its perpetrators.

I support the administration's approach to the Iranian nuclear program. Active diplomacy and ratcheting up international sanctions are, at this point, the best path forward. That said, diplomacy is only as effective as the credibility and potential force backing it up. The President, as Commander in Chief, is correct to preserve a broad spectrum of policy options in confronting the Iranian threat.

Some groups on the left, such as MoveOn.org, believe we should take military options off the table, then negotiate. Such an approach might make sense to the zealots on the far left, but it will not help us in our efforts to slow Iran's nuclear program. Why would Iran take us seriously if we negotiate with all carrots and no sticks? Why would they take us seriously when their hateful screeds against us and our allies are met with an invitation to join polite society's lecture circuit?

I will close by saying that I strongly support free speech. Free speech is a hallmark of democracy, a right not afforded by Ahmadi-Nejad to his own people. There is a world of difference between not preventing Ahmadi-Nejad from speaking and handing a megalomaniac a megaphone and a stage to use it.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes until the hour of 3:10 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and Senator BYRD recognized for 25 minutes of the majority's time and the Republicans controlling the final portion.

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

IRAQ

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, a few days ago, Congress and the American public were treated to a sales job on Iraq that would have made any used car salesman proud. We heard the half-truths and rosy visions put forth by authoritative diplomats in dark suits and ribboned and starred generals in uniform, topped off by the pomp and circumstance of a well-rehearsed Oval Office speech. Visions were painted for us of a peaceful and prosperous oasis of democracy and stability in the turbulent geography of the Middle East, if only—and only if—our gallant soldiers stayed for just a little while longer to bring the dream to reality. Such a grand vision, of course, produced yet another new Bush administration slogan, ''return on success,'' which fits very nicely on a bumper sticker for the back of the lemon this team of salesmen is trying to peddle.

Like any good used car salesman, the President insists that we take him up on his once-in-a-lifetime good deal, just as he has insisted, each and every time, that he needs a little more time for his war in Iraq. If we don't buy in once again, Iraq will descend into chaos, militias will commence with ethnic cleansing, terrorists will set up complexes from which to launch attacks on the United States, and Iran or Syria, or both, will develop nuclear weapons and invade Iraq on their way to Israel.

Mr. President, I suggest that we stop and take a little time to consider this offer, consider what was said and what was not said. It is long past time to lift the hood and kick the tires.

President Bush said in his speech that things were going so well in Iraq that the extra troops needed for the surge could begin returning home, as long as conditions continued to improve. In the only time line that he laid out, the President suggested that, subject to his fine print, the number of U.S. troops in Iraq might be reduced to 137,000 by July 2008. While that is certainly welcome news, it carefully neglects to mention that this reduction would still leave 7,000 more troops in Iraq than were present before the so-called ''temporary surge'' began in February 2007. Frankly, that is not much of a drawdown, given all the so-called ''progress'' in Iraq cited by the President.

The President said in 2003, ''Mission accomplished.'' Now the President says that in December, it will be time to ''transition to the next phase of our strategy in Iraq.'' the President said, and I quote, ''As terrorists are defeated, civil society takes root, and the Iraqis assume more control over their own security, our mission in Iraq will evolve. Over time, our troops will shift from leading operations, to partnering with Iraqi forces, and eventually to overwatching those forces.''

In 2003, over 4 years ago, when U.S. forces overthrew the regime of Saddam Hussein, there was supposed to be a rapid transition to a new civil government in Iraq. In all the years since the invasion, civil society has not yet put down strong roots despite our efforts. By every assessment and every benchmark, it is not happening now, either. The Iraqi central government is nowhere near achievng reconciliation,

and equitable arrangements for the sharing of oil revenue or holding elections are but dim and distant visions. Iraqis have not assumed control over their own security. Indeed, independent assessments of Iraq have suggested that Iraqi security forces are riddled with sectarian corruption and will not be capable of providing security for some time to come, if ever.

U.S. troops have been ''partnering'' with Iraqi troops for years now, and U.S. troops have been training, equipping and supporting Iraqi forces to the tune of billions of dollars. U.S. troops have been conducting counterterrorism operations, as the President also noted in his speech. So what, pray tell, is new or different about this strategy? I can see nothing by which to judge success so that our troops may ''return on success.'' It is just a nice paint job slathered across the same old junk car.

The warranties on this new speech and this new sales job expire as soon as the car is driven off the lot. The only timeline offered by President Bush or General Petraeus ran out of time after July 2008. The pretty six-colored chart that General Petraeus used to show the troop drawdown associated with the transition had no dates on it past July 2008, though it was pretty clear that U.S. troops would be in Iraq for a very long time to come. President Bush explicitly said that if he has his way, U.S. troops would be in Iraq long past his exit from the White House. He boldly asserts that he will leave his staggering foreign policy calamity for someone else to clean up. Talk about passing the buck.

Mr. President, we simply cannot afford another slick White House sales job. Too many young men and women have died or have been maimed in this horrific war. We owe it to them to take a good hard look at the facts. General Petraeus, in his testimony, suggested that because of the ''surge,'' the number of Iraqi deaths have decreased, indicating ''progress.'' That may or may not be true—I do not know—but I do know that General Petraeus carefully did not note that the number of U.S. deaths in Iraq actually increased during the surge period, compared to the same periods in prior years. General Petraeus also did not note that the U.S. military death rate in Iraq, that is, the average number of deaths per month, also continues to climb from prior years.

General Petraeus pointed to the decrease in the number of improvised explosive device, or lED, attacks during the surge period of June through August as another sign of progress. It is true that the number of attacks dropped—as it does every year during the very hottest months of June, July, and August. But what General Petraeus did not say is that the number of U.S. deaths from IEDs increased during the surge period, compared to the same period in prior years. That, as they say, is the rest of the story. That is the whole truth, not carefully cherry-picked statistics designed to bolster the President's pitch for progress.

The President and his men also did not talk about the price tag of this shiny little war sedan. No need to discuss that before they have hooked us into writing the check. But the cost of this war should be uppermost in our minds, as the Senate addresses the Defense authorization bill, and certainly before the Senate considers yet another war funding supplemental appropriations bill—the largest one ever.

Congress has already appropriated over $450 billion for the war in Iraq, and if Congress approves the President's latest request for supplemental funds, that figure will grow to over $600 billion during fiscal year 2008. That is a price tag with nine zeroes in it, folks. These direct costs do not cover the many hidden, indirect costs of this war, such as higher Veterans Administration costs, more veterans' disability payments, the considerable interest on the additional debt, higher oil and gasoline prices, increased security costs here at home, and the incalculable damage done to our image and reputation in the world because of this war. The combined direct and indirect costs and obligations of this war will exceed $1 trillion by the most conservative estimates. Many economists believe that the costs are much higher.

That $600 billion or $1 trillion pricetag also does not begin to cover the lost opportunity costs—all the ways in which money now spent on Iraq could have been used to make our bridges safer, secure our border, improve education, or to prepare for and rebuild after natural disasters and weather-related farming failures. That money could have been used to develop safe, clean, alternative energy sources so that the United States would not have to rely so much on oil from the Middle East or other volatile regions of the world.

Nor does that $600 billion or $1 trillion cover the costs of keeping upwards of 130,000 troops in Iraq for the many additional years the President and his men suggest will be necessary to achieve their vision of progress and success. It boggles the mind to consider the long-term costs of buying this war.

We all say that we support the troops. These brave men and women have been given a near impossible task, which they have performed with dedication, professionalism, courage, and honor. The Congress has provided everything the generals have asked for, and more. The President has taken that support for our men and women in uniform to imply support and even validation of his policy. He wants to keep the U.S. military tied down in Iraq indefinitely, trying to bargain for a little more time, a little more time, time and time again, never grasping that his policy is fatally flawed. History shows the fallacy of thinking that democracy can be force-fed at the point of a gun.

In the fifth year of this misguided, infernal war, I am convinced that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home—home, sweet home—and the only way to get them home may be to somehow restrict the funds for this disastrous, awful war. We have tried this before and the President, the President, vetoed the bill. I am here today to insist that we must try again. Strings must be attached to this money. This Senator will support no more blank checks for Iraq.

On October 11, 2002, I was one of only 23 Senators who voted against the authorization that led to this awful, infernal war. I call on my colleagues, for the sake of our soldiers and for the sake of our Nation, to remember that half-truths and misleading claims are what led to this war. We can all recall that on February 5, 2003, the President sent Colin Powell, both a ribboned and starred general and a respected diplomat, to the United Nations to sell this war to the UN and to the Nation. Secretary Powell painted frightening visions of anthrax, truck and rail car-mounted mobile weapons laboratories, and nuclear weapons—none of it was accurate. The Nation was led to believe that our troops would be greeted as liberators, and that oil money would pay for Iraq's reconstruction. Now while the half-truths have changed, the strategy of misleading the Nation remains the same.

Iraq may descend further into chaos if U.S. troops leave now, or it may descend into chaos whenever they leave. As long as the United States keeps the peace in Iraq, there is no incentive for Iraqis to maintain the peace on their own. After nearly 5 years of this awful, terrible war, more than 3,800 deaths, over 27,000 wounded, and no end in sight, we must change course. This war, this draining, desultory, dreadful occupation of Iraq must end.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

COMMENDING SENATOR BYRD

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I must pay tribute to Senator BYRD. We are on different sides of the discussion on the Iraq war, but he is an extraordinary public servant who remains as full of not just passion, which is evident, but brainpower at a mature age, shall I say, as he was when he was a lot younger. It is a privilege to serve with him and to have listened to him.

IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on amendment No. 3017 which Senator KYL of Arizona and I have offered. This amendment would designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization and thereby subject this deadly, nefarious group to a series of economic and diplomatic sanctions that Senator KYL and I think will be felt in Iran and that this group, because of its

dangerous and destabilizing work throughout Iraq and the Middle East, deserves.

This is obviously a week in which the leader of Iran, President Ahmadi-Nejad, is in the United States of America. A great debate rages about what is the appropriate way to greet him? What sanctions, what platforms should be given to him? What sanctions should be discussed?

Personally, I feel it was a terrible mistake for Columbia University to invite him to speak because he comes literally with blood on his hands—the blood of American soldiers who are being killed today in Iraq by Iraqi extremists trained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Quds Force, in Iran at bases surrounding Tehran.

But I offer this amendment in this spirit: If we are looking for a way to meaningfully respond to the presence of Ahmadi-Nejad in the United States, I cannot think of anything better than adopting this resolution which documents exactly the campaign of death and murder of Americans and others throughout the Middle East that it is carrying out.

Regardless of where any individual Member of this Chamber stands on the war in Iraq and what the best way forward on the war in Iraq is, this matter of Iran's deadly role in Iraq and throughout the Middle East should draw us all together. This is a matter on which we are not for or against the war in Iraq, we are not Democrats or Republicans, we are Americans standing based of the evidence against a force, the Iranian Republican Guard Corps, the Quds Force, that has blood on its hands, and the blood is American blood.

General Petraeus, 2 weeks ago, testified before Congress, and he could not have been clearer about the threat we face from Iran. In his words:

> It is increasingly apparent to both coalition and Iraqi leaders that Iran, through the use of the Iranian Republican Guard Corps Quds Force, seeks to turn the Shi'a militia extremists into a Hezbollah-like force to serve its interests and fight a proxy war against the Iraqi state and coalition forces.

General Petraeus's testimony is the latest in a growing dossier of evidence about Iranian terrorism—call it what it is. Ahmadi-Nejad is maybe called President; he is the terrorist dictator who, with a small group around him, has seized control of a great Nation, Iran—a growing dossier of evidence about Iranian terrorism in Iraq and throughout the region that we in this Chamber have received from our American military commanders on the ground in Iraq, from our top diplomats there, and from our own intelligence community.

This is not opinion; this is fact. Specifically, we have received detailed information in recent months about how operatives from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps have been training—have been training—arming, funding, and even directing extremists inside Iraq. As Ambassador Crocker testified:

> While claiming to support Iraq in its transition, Iran has actively undermined it by providing lethal capabilities to the enemies of the Iraqi state.

The IRGC, Quds Force, is also importing terrorists from the Lebanese Hezbollah to help build its extremist proxies in Iraq. We know this because coalition forces, American forces, have captured one of the Hezbollah leaders inside Iraq and recovered documents that detail the relationship between the Iranian regime and the extremist groups they are sponsoring who are killing Americans.

General Petraeus said it when he was here:

> This is not intelligence. This is evidence.

We also know Iran has been using its territory to train and organize these extremists, as I said. What is the source of that? The U.S. military spokesperson in Iraq, BG Kevin Bergner, U.S. Army. He has said groups of up to 60 Iraqi militants at a time have been taken to three camps near Tehran, where they received instruction in the use of mortars, rockets, improvised explosives, and other deadly tools of guerrilla warfare that they then use against our troops in Iraq.

General Bergner also reported this summer the U.S. military has concluded that ''the senior leadership'' in Iran is aware of the activities of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in sponsoring attacks against our soldiers in Iraq, and that, in his words, it is ''hard to imagine'' that the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, does not know about them.

The consequences of this Iranian terrorism in Iraq have been immense and terrible for our men and women in uniform and for their families and friends at home. According to LTG Ray Odierno, the deputy commander of our forces in Iraq, Iranian-supplied weapons were responsible for a full one-third of American combat deaths this July. That builds on a similar record in preceding months. Let me repeat that. Up to a third of the deaths of American soldiers in Iraq in July were caused by sophisticated explosive devices used by people trained in Iran, with those devices supplied by Iran. This means the Iranians and their agents are killing our troops. Why are they doing it? Because they want us to retreat from Iraq.

The Iranians understand—sometimes, it seems, better than a lot of Americans do—that if American power collapses in Iraq, if we retreat and abandon our allies and the hopes we share with them for a better future in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, our position throughout the region will become much weaker and Iran's position will become much stronger.

Iranian aggression in Iraq fits squarely into a larger pattern of regional aggression, leading, they hope, to regional domination.

Tehran is also training, funding, and equipping radical groups that are responsible for the deaths of Lebanese, Palestinians, Afghanis, and Israelis. They are attempting to destabilize a series of moderate regimes in the Arab world.

Last week, Admiral Fallon, the commander of our Central Command, said the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is supplying anticoalition forces with the same sophisticated explosive devices it is giving to extremists in Iraq. In Admiral Fallon's words:

> There is no doubt . . . that agents from Iran are involved in aiding the insurgency.

The fact is, it is Iraq that today is the central front of Iran's efforts to become the hegemonic power in the Middle East. The Iranian regime knows Iraq has become the central front in our war with Islamist terrorism. It is where they believe they can begin the process of pushing us out of the region and seizing control. That is why I do not believe a person can be serious about responding to the threat of Iran while calling for our precipitous withdrawal from Iraq.

Ahmadi-Nejad, a few weeks ago, said:

> The political power of the occupiers is collapsing rapidly.

By that he means us.

> Soon we will see a huge power vacuum in the region. . . .We are prepared to fill that gap.

Asked about that statement, our own Ambassador Crocker said:

> Ahmadinejad means what he says, and is already trying to implement it, to the best of his ability.

That is a quote from our Ambassador in Baghdad.

It is vital to the national security interests of the United States that the Iranian Government not be allowed to prevail in its war against us and the Iraqi people's hopes for a better future. The amendment Senator KYL and I and others are offering, we believe, is an important component of our response to this threat.

First, it will send a clear message both to the fanatical regime in Tehran—not, I believe, representative of the feelings and hopes of the Iranian people—and it will send a clear message to our allies in the region that the United States will not stand idly by and allow Iranian-backed terrorists to kill hundreds of American soldiers. We will not stand idly by and allow Iran, through its proxies and then directly, to dominate Iraq.

This amendment acknowledges what our military commanders and top diplomats are telling us, which is that regardless of what we might desire in Washington, the Government in Tehran has made a decision, and they are carrying it out—to wage a proxy war against the United States in Iraq and against our allies in the Arab world and Israel throughout the region. We must respond.

Our amendment states it should be the policy of the United States to stop the violent activities and the destabilizing influence inside Iraq of the

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as its foreign facilitators such as Lebanese Hezbollah and the indigenous Iraqi extremists.

Our amendment recognizes that thwarting Iran's campaign of terror must be among the crucial considerations for any plan for the transition and drawdown of our forces in Iraq. As General Petraeus warned us in his testimony, the threat of Iran may, in the long run, prove an even greater danger to the stability of Iraq—their hopes for political reconciliation and self-government—than al-Qaida. We cannot ignore Iran.

For that reason, the amendment Senator KYL and I are offering calls on the State Department to designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization and place the IRGC on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. This is no small organization. I have seen estimates to say it is as large as 150,000 or 180,000. They have ground troops. They have air capability. They even have naval assets. They have businesses which are doing business with other businesses throughout the region and the world.

This is the organization that the evidence, presented to us by the American military intelligence communities, tells us is responsible for the murder of American soldiers in Iraq.

They are launching terrorist attacks through their agents against our troops; therefore, they should be treated as terrorists. They must begin to suffer the economic and diplomatic punishments that come with being designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

Of course, everyone in this Chamber would prefer that we find a way to convince the Iranian regime to stop these attacks against our soldiers, Iraqi soldiers, and civilians through negotiation, but reality requires that we recognize that we have tried to use the tools of diplomacy with Iran, Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad's government, and it has produced nothing.

Since May, Ambassador Crocker, our Ambassador, has met three times with his Iranian counterparts in Baghdad—the highest level official meetings between American and Iranian representatives in decades—and what have these talks produced? These talks, at which our Ambassador has presented the Iranians with hard evidence that we know the IRGC, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, is training Iraqi extremists who are coming back into Iraq and killing American soldiers—what has that evidence produced? Nothing. Nothing at all. In fact, there is some evidence that the Iranian activity is growing.

In Ambassador Crocker's own words as he testified before Congress:

> I laid out the concerns we have over Iranian activity that was damaging to Iraq's security, but found no readiness on the Iranian side at all to engage seriously on these issues. The impression I came away with after a couple of rounds is that the Iranians were interested simply in the appearance of discussions, of being seen to be at the table with the U.S. as an arbiter of Iraq's present and future, rather than actually doing serious business. Right now—

Ambassador Crocker says—

> I haven't seen any signs of earnestness or seriousness on the Iranian side.

Far from convincing the Iranian regime to stop its proxy attacks on Iraqi soldiers, the evidence is that these attacks have escalated—increased—over the last month. According to the most recent National Intelligence Estimate:

> Iran has been intensifying aspects of its lethal support—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wonder if I might ask unanimous consent for 3 additional minutes.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. The war Iran is fighting against American troops and our allies in Iraq is an undeclared war, but it is, nonetheless, a real war in which real Americans and Iraqis are being murdered by Iranian agents. We cannot close our eyes to that outrageous reality. This amendment exposes that behavior and demands justice.

As we speak, the President of Iran is in the United States. There is no better time than that for us to stand together, united as Americans, regardless of our position on Iraq or our party affiliation, and send a crystal clear message to Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad and the fanatical terrorists and tyrants who now run the great country of Iran and oppress its people that their campaign of terror against our troops in Iraq must end and we will stand united as Americans against it. Ahmadi-Nejad should not be given any American platform to speak from until he acts to stop his government's killing of Americans. They have been shouting for almost three decades ''death to America.'' He leads those chants of tens of thousands in Iran today. But they have done more than shout; they have acted to bring that death to Americans in the marine barracks in Beirut, Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, and today in Iraq.

Giving this evil and fanatical man a platform at a great American university is an insult to the hundreds of Americans whose blood he and his extremist allies in Iran have on their hands. He deserves no audience, no respect, no opportunity to explain away his hateful words and murderous actions. He and the ruling clique in Iran deserve the punishment, and more, this amendment Senator KYL and I are introducing would impose on them as the terrorists they are.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

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

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, first let me compliment my colleague from Connecticut, who is largely responsible for the idea of this amendment and much of the text of it, for his leadership over the years in trying to ensure we take appropriate action against Iran as it confronts America, both with regard to its nuclear program development as well as, more currently, its activities against our forces in Iraq. He has been truly inspirational, and I appreciate that leadership.

The Senator from Connecticut has well laid out the case for this sense-of-the-Senate amendment that the U.S. Government should designate specifically the Islamic Revolutionary Guard as a foreign terrorist organization and include it on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. In addition, this sense-of-the-Senate amendment urges the use of our diplomatic and economic tools to pressure the Iranian regime not only to abandon its nuclear program but also to stop the use of its surrogates against our forces in Iraq.

There have been only two questions raised about this amendment. I am hoping and expecting that it will receive very strong bipartisan support tomorrow, assuming we are able to vote on it tomorrow. The only two questions were, first of all, Can this be read in any way as an authorization of military action against Iran? I will assure my colleagues that is absolutely not our intention—in fact, quite the opposite. This is intended to obviate the necessity for such military conduct. Nobody wants to have to engage in military action against Iran directly, but what we would like to do is get them to stop killing our troops. One way to do that is to put economic pressure on the organization that is doing the killing, and that is what this amendment would ask the administration to do.

Secondly, there is the question of whether the Islamic Revolutionary Guard is the appropriate entity to list on the Specially Designated Global Terrorists, and the answer to that is clearly yes. As I will point out in a moment, we have incontrovertible evidence that this is the group, as Senator LIEBERMAN pointed out, that is causing the trouble.

Some have said: Well, we should just designate the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard as the terrorist entity. That is like saying the Mafia isn't really responsible for what the Mafia does; it is only their hit men. The Quds Force is the group of hit men for this entity. This entity is clearly the overall entity responsible for this action, and it is the entity that engages in the economic activity which supplies the financial resources to the Quds Force. So it would not be adequate, obviously, just to designate the Quds Force, which is an arm of the Revolutionary Guard, as the terrorist entity.

What evidence do we actually have that this is the entity of the Iranian

Government that is doing all the dirty work? Well, there are many public statements, and I will quote from some of them. Senator LIEBERMAN quoted some of them. There is also other information, as one might imagine, and my colleagues should be encouraged to consult with terrorist agencies if they have any questions about the specific involvement of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard. But it is clear that this is the entity on which we should be focusing.

Senator LIEBERMAN quoted one of General Petraeus's statements in his testimony before the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services on September 10 that it is apparent Iran, through the use of the Iranian Republican Guard Corps—Quds Force—is causing this proxy war.

Here is something else General Petraeus also recently stated:

> We know that it goes as high as Suleimani—

And his full name is BG Qassem Suleimani—

> who is the head of the Quds Force of the Iranian Republican Guards Corps. That is quite high level. We believe that he works directly for the supreme leader of the country.

There is a specific reference to the IRGC.

In addition, Brigadier General Bergner, who is a spokesman for the Multi-National Force-Iraq, recently talked about the Quds Force operation in three camps near Teheran, and he said:

> The Quds Force, along with Hezbollah instructors, train approximately 20 to 60 Iraqis at a time, sending them back to Iraq organized into these special groups. They are being taught how to use Explosively Formed Penetrators, mortars, rockets, as well as intelligence, sniper and killing operations. In addition to training, the Quds Force also supplies the special groups with weapons and funding of 750,000 to 3 million U.S. dollars a month.

Now, Senator LIEBERMAN also referred to General Odierno. When I was in Iraq last, I was ushered into General Odierno's office to have a very candid discussion with him, and what an impressive military officer he is. He said: Come look at what I have on the table here, and he proceeded to show us a great deal of military hardware and described to us what it was. Essentially, it was all of the things—examples of many of the things they had found supplied by Iran, the weaponry that is killing American troops. On one, he said: Here, look at this. He said: You probably can't read Farsi, but this says, ''Made in Iran.'' Well, I accept his statement of what the Farsi says: ''Made in Iran.''

He also showed us the earth penetrators. Before we went to Iraq, we were in Kuwait at the base from which a lot of our equipment has come back out of Iraq for repair or disposition, and I say ''disposition'' because some of it has been so devastated by the explosion of these weapons smuggled in from Iran that there is nothing much left of them. What was so impressive—or depressive—to see was to see the biggest, heaviest tank in the world, an Abrams tank, blown apart by these things as if it were a stick of dynamite in a tin can. The force and the destructive capability was almost beyond belief. We saw examples of that in General Odierno's office—a canister about this big with a concave shape in the middle that he said is the shaped charge that explodes up into the tank or the humvee or whatever the military vehicle is and devastates it. In any event, they have no doubt whatsoever that this equipment which is killing American troops is coming from Iran.

The Department of Defense report to Congress entitled ''Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq'' that was just released on September 18 of this year states:

> Most of the explosives and ammunition used by these groups are provided by the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Quds Force. For the period of June through the end of August, the Explosively Formed Penetrator events—

The equipment to which I just referred—

> are projected to rise by 39 percent over the period of March through May.

There is a very interesting story in Time magazine, a recent issue, quoting a former CIA explosive expert who still works in Iraq as saying that these explosively formed projectiles we are finding in Iran, that:

> The Iranians are making them. End of story.

His argument is that only a state is capable of manufacturing these EFPs. In other words, these are manufactured by people officially connected with the government. They have access to the equipment and material and technology to make them. It is a complicated process that is involved in the making of the weapons I described.

Incidentally, this same individual is convinced that the IRGC is helping Iraqi Shia militias sight in their mortars on the Green Zone, helping them to make sure they actually land on the Green Zone:

> The way they're dropping them in, in neat grids, tells me all I need to know that the Shi'a are getting help. And there's no doubt it's Iranian, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The investigations into these particular attacks, incidentally, were also discussed in an August 2005 Time report about an Iranian operative who headed a network of insurgents created, again, by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and that they began introducing these EFPs into the country at the beginning of that year. Abu Mustafa al-Sheibani, an Iranian operative who headed a network of insurgents created by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, introduced the EFPs into the country in early 2007. U.S. military sources claimed to have captured EFPs that displayed the hallmarks of Iranian-manufactured weaponry.

This is all IRGC. This is the entity which would be declared the terrorist group under our amendment.

Ray Takehy, of the Council on Foreign Relations, recently said this—I am speaking of the IRGC:

> They are heavily involved in everything from pharmaceuticals to telecommunications and pipelines—even the new Imam Khomeini Airport and a great deal of smuggling.

I am going on to quote him:

> Many of the front companies engaged in procuring nuclear technology are owned and run by the Revolutionary Guards. They're developing along the lines of the Chinese military, which is involved in many business enterprises. It's a huge business conglomeration.

This makes the point Senator LIEBERMAN made before—that this Revolutionary Guard Corps is deeply involved in economic activity. They rely on financing for a lot of their activity. It is this vulnerability which causes us to believe that if they are listed as a state-sponsored terrorist group, we can, through the use of the sanctions that are available to us, inhibit and impede and ultimately stop their activity.

The Revolutionary Guard Corps plays a key role in the military industries in Iran. According to Anthony Cordesman, who is a distinguished expert in this area and who is currently with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, they have been involved in the attempted acquisition of nuclear weapons and surface-to-surface missiles, among other things.

Interestingly, also, the unanimously passed U.N. Security Council resolutions sanctioning Iran have listed several IRGC entities as being involved in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile activities.

Finally, the UNSCR resolutions list high-ranking IRGC personnel for their involvement in these programs, including the deputy commander of the IRGC, the chief of the IRGC joint staff, the commanders of IRGC ground forces, the commander of the IRGC Navy, the commander of the Basij Resistance Force, the commander of the Quds Force, and the Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs, who is also an IRGC officer.

I note that these resolutions, 1737 and 1747, which were immediately implemented by our European partners, have not yet been fully implemented by our own Treasury Department.

I cite all of this evidence and these quotations to simply make the point that there is absolutely no doubt that it is the IRGC that is involved in these activities against our American forces and is responsible for their deaths in Iraq. It is the IRGC that needs to be named to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist list. I misspoke before and said the state-sponsored list. I meant the Specially Designated Global Terrorist list.

By being so listed, we can employ our financial and immigration sanctions,

which could include them potentially blocking assets and even the prosecution of supporters who would provide funding to them. It could also involve refusal of visas and deportations of members. It would allow us to block the assets—in the United States—of any foreign company doing business with them, in effect, cutting them out of American markets.

Any lesser sanctions, such as focusing on the Quds Force, would not in any way solve the problem. That is like the hit men for the Mafia; you have to get to the Mafia.

We cannot settle for symbolism. This is serious. As I said, finally—and this is my last point—our resolution should not be read as an authorization for the use of force. I think we might even be changing a couple words in it to make that crystal clear. That was not our intention. To the extent that anybody might try to use that as an excuse for not supporting it, you will not have that excuse. We took out a couple of phrases that were pointed out as potentially offering that degree of support. This is not such an authorization for the use of military action. This is designed to prevent that. So if your concern is that we might ultimately be forced—or some people might believe we might be forced—to take action against Iran, and you want to void that result, this kind of economic sanction is within our power as Americans. We don't have to rely upon anybody else in the world to do it; we can do that. We know it can hurt them, and it goes to the entity causing harm to our forces and, therefore, we believe it is an appropriate action for the administration to take.

This would put the Senate on record as urging the administration to take this action as soon as possible, so we can end the actions of the IRGC.

I compliment my colleague from Connecticut again for his leadership and sponsorship of the resolution. I hope tomorrow we will vote on it and our colleagues will be supportive of it.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to the legislation offered by the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Arizona.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I compliment them for their leadership on this important issue.

I ask unanimous consent that the debate time for the energy and resources conference report be preserved.

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

FORGING UNITY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, a lot is being said about whether Ken Burns included enough Latinos in his new television series on World War II. This is one more reminder that ''pluribus'' comes easy, but ''unum'' is hard.

It would be a lot easier if ''e pluribus unum,'' the national motto displayed above the Presiding Officer's desk in the Chamber, were reversed and became ''many from one'' instead of ''one from many.''

Ken Burns's epic series on ''The War'' began last night on public television. It promises to stick in our collective memory as only a few television events have—for example, the Roots series, Burns' own Civil War series, and Super Bowls.

In fact, our country is so splintered these days and so enthralled with our diversity that not very much becomes collective memory, as did, for example, McGuffey's Reader in the 19th century, or the three network newscasts in the mid-20th century.

This diminution of our common core of beliefs and experiences is America's fundamental challenge because forging unity from our magnificent diversity is America's greatest achievement and has created our capacity for other achievements.

At the Library of Congress some weeks ago, reflecting on his 6 years of work on this television series, Ken Burns said Americans were more united during World War II and its aftermath than at any other time. It was no coincidence that during this era the ''greatest generation'' also accomplished the most: Welcoming new citizens based upon beliefs instead of race, building overwhelming military power and the best universities, and producing nearly one-third of the world's wealth for 5 percent of the world's people.

Quoting the late Arthur Schlesinger's book, ''The Disuniting of America,'' Ken Burns said America today could use ''a little less pluribus and a little more unum.''

Following World War II, liberals such as Schlesinger, Albert Shanker, and Hubert Humphrey were vigorous apostles of America's common purpose. Their Fourth of July speeches were as effusive as anybody's.

But today, the left disdains, and the right seems to have forgotten the importance of unum, which means we are abandoning our greatest achievement.

We see this in our work in the Senate. There is no constituency for consensus, only for division, and many of those who work hardest for consensus are retiring or near the end of their careers here.

A good example is the debate on Iraq, a war that, unlike World War II, divides us instead of unites us. The President is conducting the war the way he wants to conduct the war, not recognizing that persuading at least half the people he is right is the only way he can sustain a long-term U.S. presence in Iraq.

The Democratic majority, on the other hand, is working hard for a perceived political advantage, not recognizing that most voters would prefer we work together when Americans are fighting and dying.

Both sides deserve an ''incomplete'' on their report cards.

A unified country would speak with one voice on where we go from here in Iraq because our troops deserve to hear it; because the enemy needs to hear it; because one political party does not go to war, our country does; and, finally, because the Senate looks downright ridiculous lecturing Baghdad about being in a political stalemate when we cannot get out of one ourselves.

We still have an opportunity to speak with one voice on Iraq. Seventy-eight of us in the House of Representatives and the Senate—35 Democrats and 43 Republicans—have cosponsored legislation making the bipartisan Iraq Study Group recommendations the policy of our Government. It is a consensus most Members, I believe, agree with. It is sitting there staring us in the face, waiting for us to adopt it and the President to sign it.

At West Point a few weeks ago, 30 cadets told Ken Burns, after they had seen some of his World War II series, that they had watched his Civil War series with their parents and had decided then to attend West Point. We can only hope that Burns' new series can have as much impact and remind us of that time—World War II and its aftermath—when Americans pulled together, and remind us that today we could use a little less pluribus and a little more unum.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 78 cosponsors of the Iraq Study Group recommendations, on S. 1545 in the Senate and H.R. 2574 in the House. In the Senate, there are nine Democrats and eight Republicans among the cosponsors.

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

THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

COSPONSORS OF S. 1545

Democrats: Ken Salazar (D–CO), Mark Pryor (D–AR), Robert Casey (D–PA), Blanche Lincoln (D–AR), Bill Nelson (D–FL), Mary Landrieu (D–LA), Claire McCaskill (D–MO), Kent Conrad (D–ND), and Tom Carper (D–DE).

Republicans: Lamar Alexander (R–TN), Bob Bennett (R–UT), Judd Gregg (R–NH), John Sununu (R–NH), Susan Collins (R–ME), Pete Domenici (R–NM), Arlen Specter (R–PA), and Norm Coleman (R–MN).

COSPONSORS OF H.R. 2574

Democrats: Mark Udall (D–CO), Jason Altmire (D–PA), Leonard Boswell (D–IA), Rick Boucher (D–VA), Nancy Boyda (D–KS), Robert Brady (D–PA), Henry Cuellar (D–TX), Danny Davis (D–IL), Lincoln Davis (D–TN), John Dingell (D–MI), Charles Gonzalez (D–TX), Jane Harman (D–CA), Baron Hill (D–IN), Steve Israel (D–NY), Daniel Lipinski (D–IL), Tim Mahoney (D–FL), Jim Matheson (D–UT), Dennis Moore (D–KS), James Moran (D–VA), Donald Payne (D–NJ), Collin Peterson (D–MN), Mike Ross (D–AR), Bobby Rush (D–IL), John Salazar (D–CO), Heath Shuler (D–NC), and David Wu (D–OR).

Republicans: Frank Wolf (R–VA), Mary Bono (R–CA), Michael Castle (R–DE), John Abney Culberson (R–TX), Tom Davis (R–VA), Charles Dent (R–PA), David Dreier (R–CA), Vernon Ehlers (R–MI), Jo Ann Emerson (R–MO), Phil English (R–PA), Jeff Fortenberry (R–NE), Luis Fortuño (R–PR), Jim Gerlach (R–PA), Wayne Gilchrest (R–MD), Dean Heller (R–NV), David Hobson (R–OH), Peter Hoekstra (R–MI), Walter Jones (R–NC), Jack Kingston (R–GA), Mark Kirk (R–IL), Randy Kuhl (R–NY), Michael McCaul (R–TX), Sue Wilkins Myrick (R–NC), Jim Ramstad (R–MN), Ralph Regula (R–OH), David Reichert (R–WA), Christopher Shays (R–CT), Christopher Smith (R–NJ), Patrick Tiberi (R–OH), Fred Upton (R–MI), James Walsh (R–NY), Zach Wamp (R–TN), Ed Whitfield (R–KY), Roger Wicker (R–MS), and Don Young (R–AK).

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, could the Chair tell me what the order is this morning.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1495, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1495), 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, having met, have agreed to recommend and do recommend that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by all conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of July 31, 2007)

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very pleased to bring to the floor today the conference report on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. I think I can pick up on something Senator ALEXANDER said about how divided we are in this country over this Iraq war. That is very clear. No one understands more than our Senator who is sitting in the chair and presiding today how we are divided. This is a different story, so we will take a little break out of our discussions about Iraq, and we will continue to work for bipartisanship in bringing this war to an honorable close.

At this time, we take a little break from that and turn toward something that is very important, which is building and rebuilding the water infrastructure of our Nation. Today is a day that is 7 years in the making.

I wish to start off by thanking my committee, all of the Members on my side of the aisle, and Senator INHOFE, our ranking member, and all his colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle. This is an unusual day. This is a day where we come forward united on a bill that will authorize the projects and policies of the Civil Works Program of the Army Corps of Engineers. I am so pleased we will vote today on final passage of that bill, and we will send it to the President.

I hope President Bush will reconsider his veto threat of this bill. I think colleagues will speak to how urgent this bill is. Imagine not having a water resources bill for 7 long years. That is too long to wait. If colleagues are concerned about the size of the bill—truly, if we had gone back the way we did it, every 2 years, it would be about the size that this bill is. As Senator INHOFE will say when he gets here—and, as you know, he and I don't agree on many environmental matters, but on public works matters we do agree—this is the first step in a long process—the authorizing step—and then comes the appropriations.

So every one of these projects that has gone through local governments all over this country—remember, for every one of these projects, there is a local match. These are projects that came from the bottom up, from our people who were saying to us we need help with flood control, with economic development, with dredging and we need help with wetlands restoration and in a number of areas involving the movement of water; and this country learned it when we watched after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

If we didn't know it then, we certainly know it now. So I say to this President, this bill is in line, in terms of the pricetag, with what we would have had if we had done this bill every 2 years. There is huge support for this bill. The votes in the House and the Senate are enormous, very one-sided.

So I hope, Mr. President, if you are listening or people in your office are listening, this is a respectful request to please join with us. We don't have to fight over every single thing. When it comes to the economy, the quality of life of our people, we should be united.

The House vote on this conference report was 381 to 40. We are hoping we will vote in that same fashion in the Senate.

Mr. President, how much time do I have, since I am Senator REID's designee?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Each of the managers has 67½ minutes. The Senator has used 3½ minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, will Senator LANDRIEU be amenable to taking 10 minutes at this time, and I will reserve time later for her in the debate?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield 10 minutes of my time to Senator LANDRIEU. I wish to say before she begins, she has been a mover behind this bill. She has worked her heart out to get this bill to the floor and, as a result of her working, of course, along with her colleague, Senator VITTER, who is on the committee, our committee came to Louisiana and held a very unique hearing. We had many colleagues—I see Senator CARDIN is on the floor. He was there. We had a very good turnout, and Senator LANDRIEU was eloquent. She has been eloquent on the floor of the Senate in the past I look forward to hearing her remarks.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from California and all of my colleagues on this particular committee who have worked so hard. The ranking member, Senator INHOFE from Oklahoma, has also worked hard. But I have to say to this chairwoman who took the chairmanship of this committee and said 7 years is enough time to wait, it is too long for the people of Louisiana, for California, or Florida, or Maryland—my good colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN, who serves on this committee has been so forceful—she said: I am coming to Louisiana. I want to see it for myself, particularly after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated our coast.

As the chairwoman knows, we lost 267 square miles of land in south Louisiana because of the storm and the devastation of the tides, the surges, and the flooding. That is more than the whole District of Columbia, more than two and a half times the size of the 100 square miles that represent the District of Columbia. This is a huge expanse of land that was lost.

This Senator said enough. We have been waiting too long. It has been 7 long years. Today with this conference report vote that is going to take place in about 2 hours, that wait will come to an end. The last step Congress can take to send this bill off will have been taken. The conference report, hopefully, will be approved by a vast majority of Senators on both sides of the aisle. It would not have happened without Senator BOXER's leadership. I am, indeed, so grateful on behalf of the people I represent in Louisiana.

This is a small map, but it shows my colleagues the vastness of the land we are trying to protect and preserve, this great wetlands, which is the green area shown on this chart. The Mississippi River comes down, of course, through the mouth of the Mississippi River. This is the Sabine River that divides Louisiana from Texas and the Pearl River that serves as a boundary between Mississippi and Louisiana.

From east Texas, all of Louisiana, and for west Mississippi, this is an extremely important bill for our coastal regions. It is going to provide historic

and first-time funding for a comprehensive wetlands restoration, a combination of levees, wetlands restoration, and freshwater diversion projects that are going to not only protect the 3.5 million people who live south of the I–10—when people say to me, Senator, why do you live there? I don't know exactly how to answer that question other than to say we have been there for 300 years.

I don't know exactly why the first person—and that was before the Native Americans. That was after the Native Americans settled the land. I am speaking about when Bienville put up a stake along the Mississippi River. I would say there are any number of reasons, one of which is it was absolutely imperative to settle on the mouth of the river for westward expansion for the Nation. We couldn't have had a nation without the Mississippi River and the Louisiana Purchase, of which 19 States now are made up from the Louisiana Purchase.

We remember our history. I cannot go into all the reasons, but they most certainly are there with 300 years of history. There are 3 million people who live here. We cannot relocate them. It would be cost prohibitive. We can only protect them. We have put in smart planning and smart zoning. That is what we are doing and have been doing. The parishes put up money, and the State, and the Federal Government, and that is what we are doing.

I only have a few minutes remaining. I will speak later.

There is another way to look at the levee system that is crucial to protect the people who live in south Louisiana. Unlike many States, we do not have beaches. I have been to the beautiful beaches in California, and I want them preserved. I have been to some of the most beautiful beaches in Virginia and North Carolina and throughout the country. We are the only State that does not have beaches. We only have two: Holly Beach which is 7 miles long—it was virtually destroyed in the storm—and Grand Isle, which is 7 miles long. This coastline is thousands of miles long with only two little beaches. But we do have wetlands. We do not have people living on these wetlands. Sometimes there is a little camp here or a little community there. But they are stuck on the high ridges. They have been living on ridges that can be protected, and with the right kind of levees and the right kind of comprehensive system such as is in the Netherlands and other places in the world, this can be done. It takes commitment, it takes dedication, and it needs a steady stream of funding.

Mr. President, how many minutes do I have remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 4½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, this is a fairly dramatic chart I want to show people. It is a little scary for me and, I am sure, the people I represent. It is also very scary for Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. This is the track of all hurricanes from 1955 to 2005. This is what the southeastern part of this country has to brace itself for every year—year after year after year.

According to all reports, these storms are getting stronger and stronger and more numerous. We have been very blessed that we have not had a critical storm this summer. But the season is still open until November.

This yellow track is the track of Katrina. This blue track is the track of Rita which actually hit 2 years ago today. I was down in Cameron Parish on the corner of Louisiana, and east Texas is still hurting very badly, as well as our areas, from this storm. It has not recovered yet.

My point is, this bill not only has projects for inland waterways and navigation, but it provides vital projects for all of the southeastern United States and for the eastern seaboard to protect the people, the great industries, and manufacturing that are represented through all sorts of navigable waterways and ports that service this whole Nation.

Without this bill, this whole area will become significantly more vulnerable and open to storms, erosion, and surges. This is a very dramatic chart that shows what we are up against.

I am going to come back later and show some other charts, but in conclusion, this is a historic bill for Louisiana. It is extremely important for the Nation. For the first time we have authorized Morganza to the gulf which protects Houma, LA, a city not a lot of people hear about, but it is a very important city. It is smaller than Baton Rouge, smaller than New Orleans, smaller than Lafayette, but it is crucial to the energy infrastructure of this Nation.

We have many small towns in south Louisiana that my colleagues will not hear a lot about, but we store oil and gas there. We run pipelines through these towns. People are down there working their hearts out to give us the energy security we need. The least we can do is protect their schools, their communities, their way of life, and their culture.

I thank Senator BOXER for allowing me to speak. I thank my colleague Senator VITTER, who is a member of this committee. He will be speaking in a moment. He has been extremely helpful, energetic, and forceful in his advocacy for many of these projects. We have worked together. I am very pleased that he has put so much time and effort into this bill.

I see my colleague from Florida, who also has made a historic breakthrough on some projects, particularly the Everglades.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I also rise and join so many colleagues on both sides of the aisle in strong support of this Water Resources Development Act conference report. Perhaps it is appropriate that we will pass this historic legislation through the Senate today, September 24, the 2-year anniversary of Hurricane Rita which devastated large parts of southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana.

Of course, less than a month ago, August 29, was the 2-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, also appropriate that we are finally moving on this crucial legislation so near to that anniversary.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that as we still battle to recover from those two devastating storms, as we still climb out of that enormous setback in Louisiana, as we still face important work to do related to that recovery in Congress, this conference report, this WRDA bill, is the single most important thing we can pass to help the gulf coast with that recovery, particularly medium and long term. That is how vital it is to improve hurricane flood protection. That is how essential it is to our very lifeblood survival recovery from the devastating impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Of course, as virtually everyone, I am very frustrated about how long it took us to get to this moment—7 years—when a WRDA bill is expected to be passed every 2 years. But at least, I will also say, we have done something with that delay in improving the bill, particularly to take account of the needs and the lessons learned coming out of those devastating storms.

I first came to the Senate after the election of 2004, January 2005. The first committee I was assigned to was the Environment and Public Works Committee, through which this WRDA bill, of course, passes. That committee works on this bill. Even when I first came to the Senate 3 years ago, this bill was about 2 years overdue. So it has been a long time coming. But we have worked on it, we have improved it, it has gone through the committee process, and it has gone through the conference process.

I also served on the conference committee. We finally have a very good, robust product and, again, we have at least taken advantage of that time lapse to learn the lessons of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to include key positions that Louisiana and the gulf coast need for their recovery and, indeed, survival.

What crucial provisions are included in this bill? A 100-year level of hurricane protection. President Bush, in his famous Jackson Square speech in mid-September 2005, made a clear, firm, and historic commitment to that very high level of hurricane protection.

This bill embodies that commitment and passes it into law. It takes several steps forward toward that 100-year level of protection.

Recently the Corps determined that level of protection doesn't exist in the

greater New Orleans area. We are between 2 and 16 feet vertically deficient in terms of our levees throughout the greater New Orleans area. This bill fully authorizes addressing that shortfall.

The second key component of the bill, moving on into the future, is a greater level of hurricane protection even beyond the 100-year level, what we in south Louisiana call category 5 protection. In prior legislation, some of the supplemental appropriation bills we passed on an emergency basis after the hurricanes, we told the Corps to get to work studying and designing that higher level of protection. This bill further refines that mandate and directs the Corps in no uncertain terms to offer specific project recommendations toward that fundamentally higher, sounder level of protection.

A third crucial component is coastal restoration. As my colleague from Louisiana has referred to, Louisiana has lost enormous amounts of land, having it vanish into the gulf due to coastal land loss. We have lost more land than exists in the entire State of Delaware. Right now, as we speak, we lose a football field of land every 38 minutes, and that is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. It goes on and on and on. This bill begins to address in a very serious way that national emergency. This bill authorizes an ambitious coastal restoration plan.

Again, the bill is long overdue, but we have made use of that delay. When I first came to the Senate, the WRDA bill then under consideration only devoted about $400 million to this national crisis of coastal land loss. It only authorized one specific project. We knew we had to do more. We saw we had to do more because of the experiences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and so now we authorize around $4 billion of this crucial work, with 17 specific coastal restoration projects fully authorized.

Corps reform, another crucial provision, is embodied in the bill, although I think we do Corps reform right, particularly with regard to Louisiana projects. One of the most bitter lessons of Hurricane Katrina in particular was that the Corps had made serious engineering and other mistakes in the past which led to the levee breaches and devastating flooding throughout the New Orleans area. We had to reform the process to make sure that never happened again. We had to bring in outside engineering and other expertise to integrate with the expertise within the Corps to make sure those sorts of mistakes were never made again.

I drafted, with the help of others, Corps reform provisions that are in this bill, some of them specific to Louisiana projects. For the first time ever, we fully integrate hurricane, coastal, flood protection, and navigation programs within Louisiana and we mandate a specific integration team that will help that become reality so that one type of project isn't done in isolation.

We establish the Louisiana Water Resources Council to improve the efficiency and performance of projects. That is a very important part of Corps reform. We expedite the process so that, hopefully, no longer will it take an average of 13 years—13 years—for an average Corps project to even get to the stage where the first shovel hits the ground.

This bill contains so many other crucial provisions—closing of the MRGO, major improvements to the Bonnet Carre diversion alternative, major hurricane protection improvements to the lower Jefferson Parish and Lafourche Parish, and crucial work in the southwest part of the State, where Hurricane Rita caused devastating damage, including deeper access to the Port of Iberia, coupled with greater flood and hurricane protection for Vermilion Parish, and improved dredging and navigation on the Calcasieu River, and on and on and on. This bill is a lifeline for our continued survival in Louisiana.

As we move forward, I thank all of the folks who worked so hard to produce this bill, certainly including the leadership of my EPW Committee, the chair, Chairman BOXER, the ranking member, Senator INHOFE, and the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, Senators ISAKSON and BAUCUS, and all of their very devoted staff. As we move on, I urge all of us to join together to pass the bill, and then to either avoid Presidential veto or, if necessary, hopefully work immediately in a bipartisan fashion to override that veto and ensure that this crucial legislation, crucial for the very survival of Louisiana, becomes law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have a little UC to take care of the people on the floor right now.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator COLLINS be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes; Senator NELSON for up to 10 minutes, and Senator BAUCUS for up to 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does the Senator wish for the Members to speak in that order?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes. And, for now, this will be it, but I will do a second UC to include Senator LANDRIEU for another 10 at a later time.

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

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the chair of the committee for yielding me this time, and I rise today in support of the conference report for the Water Resources Development Act. This legislation authorizes important studies and projects to protect and maintain water resources throughout our country.

I am especially pleased that the conference report includes $26.9 million for Camp Ellis, ME. More than 100 years ago, the Army Corps built a jetty extending out from the Saco River, adjacent to Camp Ellis Beach. This jetty altered the pattern of currents and sand and it is the primary cause of the devastating erosion at Camp Ellis. The extent of the erosion is truly shocking. Some 36 houses have been washed into the sea in the last 100 years. The 1998 shoreline is 400 feet from where the shoreline stood in 1908. The houses that are now in danger were once six or more houses back from the sea.

In April of this year, a devastating Patriot's Day storm hit Maine with heavy winds and a great deal of rain. This terrible storm, the worst natural disaster to strike Maine since the ice storm of 1998, caused massive storm surges, astronomically high tides, and inland and coastal flooding.

Let me show my colleagues some of the evidence of the devastation that was caused by this April storm. As you can see, this is the road that follows along the waterfront. It was utterly devastated. In another picture I will show my colleagues, this is what happened to some of the houses that were along the waterfront. As you can see, they were completely destroyed as the water took out the foundations and caused terrible destruction. That is a power pole that has been thrown down by the storm. In yet another example, a house has been absolutely ruined as a result of this storm.

Now, when the jetty was first constructed 100 years ago, we didn't have the knowledge we do now, and no one predicted the terrible impact. The incredible force of the ocean during the storm earlier this year literally washed out the foundations of the homes. The street that once ran along the ocean front was largely destroyed, leaving nothing between the remaining homes and the open ocean. Many homeowners in the area were still dealing with flooded basements for weeks following the storm. This was a vivid reminder of the terrible impact a powerful storm can have on those who live in this vulnerable community.

The sea has advanced such that another large storm could wash out the peninsula altogether and turn Camp Ellis into an island. That, obviously, would be devastating to the people who live there.

We know what must be done to prevent such a calamity. Studies undertaken at the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers indicate that an offshore breakwater and a spur coming off the jetty are likely to be needed to protect Camp Ellis from further erosion and the destruction of even more property. The Camp Ellis jetty was built by the Federal Government at a time when the erosional impacts of shoreline structures were largely unknown. The jetty has served its important navigational purpose well over the 100-plus years of its existence, but now it is time for the Federal Government to make good on its obligation to help those people who have been harmed by the structure the Federal Government built in the first place.

With the passage of the Water Resources Development Act, we will finally have authorized the funds necessary to act upon the best available science and to fully and finally protect the residents of Camp Ellis. I urge my colleagues to support the conference report, and again I thank the committee for being responsive to the concerns of the people of Maine.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, a commitment takes a lot more than lip service and nice words to restore ecosystems, and particularly ecosystems that have been manipulated by mankind and distorted as has happened with the Florida Everglades. When I talk about commitment, I want to talk about Senator BOXER. This lady, in only a few months, after waiting for 7 years, with all other leadership flailing about and not making it happen—this lady, our chair of the Environment Committee, has made it happen and it is going to be passed. We are going to do it today, and we all hope the President will not veto it. But with the separation of powers under our constitution, we have a way of enacting law over a President's veto, and that is better than a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress to enact it into law despite the veto of the President. We hope we don't have to do that, but if we do, we will. Then we can set things right and we can get about the restoration.

I want to tell the Senate about this incredible area known as the Everglades. This is a compendium of satellite imagery over a 4-year period. This is at the southern tip of Florida. This is Lake Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Homestead, and the beginning of the Florida Keys. This is a road which was constructed in the 1920s, to get from Miami to Naples, called the Tamiami Trail. This is a road which was constructed to get from Fort Lauderdale to Naples—Interstate 75—called Alligator Alley. This, of course, was constructed much more recently—sometime about 25 years ago—and was constructed with box culverts so that there would be proper water flows.

But you can imagine, back in the 1920s they didn't think about that. When they built the Tamiami Trail, it in effect created a dike that, as the water flowed south out of Okeechobee, in the historical Mother Nature patterns, and would flow in this sheet flow to the south into Florida Bay and into the gulf of Mexico, it was suddenly stopped by this dike, which was the roadbed.

So part of this bill called Modified Waters is to correct that, having additional flows come underneath and then eventually to construct a long bridge or bridges here, which will enhance the flow of the water. Why enhance the flow of the water? That is what Mother Nature intended. The water actually starts way north, just south of Orlando. It flows in a meandering stream called the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee and historically spilled over out of Lake Okeechobee and flowed in a massive sheet flow in this direction, southernly and southwesterly, until the hurricanes of the 1920s, in which over 2,000 people were killed, drowned, and the whole idea was to come in and start diking and draining for flood control. But in so doing, they messed up what Mother Nature intended.

About the year 2000, when the comprehensive Everglades restoration project was passed, it was to now accommodate for several different things. First of all, the water had been diverted, so that had to be changed. But the fact is that now 6 million people are living here. That wasn't the case in early Florida. And a vast agricultural industry had developed on the south end of the lake. To give the water needs to the Everglades and the Everglades National Park and to the 6 million people and to the agricultural interests—that, put together, is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Ever since that was enacted, we have not had an authorization bill to authorize the projects to implement this plan. So I again give kudos to Senator BOXER for bringing this up and making it happen fast.

What we have, then, is a major project in this bill called the Indian River Lagoon. This is the Indian River up here. I happened to grow up, as a child, on this river. At times, that and the St. Lucie River flowing into the Indian River Lagoon is like a dead river because of the excessive nutrients from lower Lake Okeechobee flowing to Tidewater. The same to the west, down the Caloosahatchee River, down to Fort Myers—excessive nutrients create a dead river.

I couldn't believe it. A couple of years ago, I went out on that river right there, the St. Lucie River. First of all, there was a bright-green algae bloom. You know what that means. That means algae is sucking up the oxygen from the river, and therefore all the living things that depend on that river are not going to be there. I didn't see the mullet jumping. I didn't see the porpoises rolling. I didn't see Mr. Osprey diving into the water to get his dinner. I didn't see Mr. Eagle sitting over in the dead pine tree waiting for Mr. Osprey to catch his dinner for him. It was a dead river. That is one of the reasons for one of these major projects called the Indian River Lagoon, and that is authorized. Then we have to appropriate the money and get it done.

There is another area here called the Picayune Spring. It is a highly endangered area because of the encroachment of development and the necessary waterflows. It, also, is addressed as well as what I talked about, this dike, which is the roadbed, called the Tamiami Trail.

What we have is a comprehensive plan for what Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, when she wrote of her great love of these Florida Everglades, termed the ''River of Grass.''

I will conclude with this. Senator BOXER and her husband were kind enough to go down to the Everglades with me a few weeks ago. It was this incredible sight. As we glided over this river of grass in an airboat and as the Sun began to set and as the shadows lengthened, as we came out of the river of grass into the Big Cypress Preserve with these stands of cypress trees, with that little light available right at dusk, it looked as if we were in this beautiful meadow of grass with the tree stands. Suddenly, reality struck when we saw a mother doe and her two fawns—instead of bounding over the hills of the grass, they were jumping over the grass out of the water and back into the water, in this incredible place, the location of fauna and flora.

The Everglades does not just affect Florida. It doesn't just affect the Western Hemisphere. Major environmental sites that are ecologically threatened affect the climate of planet Earth, our home.

I am so grateful that we have this bill up and that we are going to pass it with huge numbers today.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

First, I deeply congratulate the chair of the committee, Senator BOXER. She worked very hard and on a strong bipartisan basis to get this legislation where it is, working with Senator INHOFE. I thank him equally.

I also wish to thank Senator ISAKSON, the ranking member of the subcommittee, concerning this legislation.

And hats off to Senator Jim Jeffords. Senator Jeffords and his staffer, Catharine Ransom, deserve special thanks because for years they have been working on this legislation. I wanted first to thank him for his efforts as well. I know if he were here with us today, he would be very happy getting this legislation passed.

We westerners have been plagued recently with several years of drought. Ranchers and farmers across my State of Montana have watched their livelihood dry up before their eyes. The West's battle with drought highlights the pressing needs to ensure our water resources are used efficiently because it does not rain in the West. It may rain in Washington, DC, and other parts of the country, but it doesn't rain in the West.

This conference report provides authority for the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with long overdue water resources projects. Levees are crumbling, people are living in harm's way waiting for this legislation. The tragedy in Minnesota highlights that need. This conference report authorizes projects that will provide needed flood and storm damage protection, navigation improvements, and environmental restoration. Clearly, there

is authority here well needed, long overdue, for rebuilding and restoring the coast of Louisiana, devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Several projects are very important to my State of Montana: the Yellowstone River and tributaries recovery project; the Lower Yellowstone Project at Intake, MT; the Missouri River and tributaries recovery project; the upper basin of the Missouri River project; and a riverfront revitalization project in Missoula.

There is also a very important authorization for the rehabilitation and improvement of a very important aging water project we called the Hi-Line Region of Montana, called the St. Mary diversion. This system is rusting, it is cracking, and it is crumbling. If you go out and see it, you are stunned how much this is deteriorating. But 17,000 Montanans on the Hi-Line depend on this 90-year-old system for their drinking water. Without St. Mary, lower Milk River would go dry 6 out of every 10 years, imperiling the water source to thousands of Montana families.

These projects and their importance to the communities and the projects they serve underlie the need for this conference report. We passed it last year. Let's get it enacted again this year.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, before my friend begins, I wanted to get the parliamentary situation, if he will yield for a minute?

Mr. FEINGOLD. I yield the floor.

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

Mrs. BOXER. It is my understanding that Senator FEINGOLD has up to 30 minutes to speak on the bill. He and I discussed it. If he has any added time, he has graciously agreed to yield it to me with the understanding that if he wants additional time, I will get it back to him later. But I think, if it is necessary for me to make such a request, I ask unanimous consent that whatever time the Senator yields back be yielded back to me with the understanding he will be able to speak again if he so chooses.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wisconsin has 30 minutes.

Mr. FEINGOLD. If I do not use all the time, I will certainly be happy to yield to the Senator from California.

Mr. President, I will oppose the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act. For 7 years, I have worked with Senator MCCAIN and many of our colleagues on essential reforms of the Corps of Engineers and have long anticipated the day the Congress enacts meaningful reform.

Unfortunately, today is not that day, and this is not the reform bill the country needs.

After a decade of Government and independent reports calling for reforming the Corps and pointing out stunning flaws in Corps projects and project studies, and after the tragic failures of New Orleans' levees during Hurricane Katrina, the American people deserve meaningful reforms to ensure the projects the Corps builds are safe, appropriate, environmentally responsible, and fiscally sound. The urgency and necessity could not be clearer.

Unfortunately, the conference report includes weak reforms. The Senate twice voted in support of strong reform language, when it passed WRDA bills earlier this year and last Congress. But the conference report we are about to vote on has been stripped of many important safeguards that would ensure accountability and prevent the Corps from manipulating the process. We have compromised enough over the years. We can no longer afford a system that favors wasteful projects over the needs of the American people.

The bill brought back from conference is particularly disappointing because a few months ago, on May 15, Senators REID, BOXER, and I entered into a colloquy in which we agreed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee would ensure the strong Senate reforms would be the minimum reforms coming out of conference and enacted into law. That agreement, apparently, has counted for little.

I am particularly troubled by the changes made to the bill's independent review provision during negotiations between the House and the Senate. The Senate version of the bill included a strong independent review provision, which I successfully offered as an amendment to last year's bill and which was again included in this year's WRDA.

Subjecting Corps of Engineers project studies to a review by an independent panel of experts will help ensure future Corps projects do not waste taxpayer money or endanger public safety and that environmental impacts are avoided or minimized.

Unfortunately, the independent review provision included in the conference report was significantly weakened in several respects. First, it does not ensure independence of the review process. Under the conference report, the supposedly ''independent'' review is not independent. The review process is run by the Corps rather than outside the Agency, as required by the Senate bill.

The Corps Chief of Engineers is given significant authority to decide the timing of review, the projects to be reviewed, and whether to implement a review panel's recommendations, and, apparently, even has the ability to control the flow of information received by the review panel.

The Corps was not given the authority to determine the scope of the review, but in these other respects, it was given far too much authority, all of which will compromise the independence of the review that is performed.

Second, it terminates the independent review provision 7 years after enactment. It is reasonable for Congress to continually evaluate how the program is working, but to presume there is not a need for a long-term review and set a sunset date is irresponsible.

Independent reviews should be permanently integrated into the Corp's planning process. The burden should be on the Corps to demonstrate why it does not need a congressionally mandated review process, rather than on Congress to wage another battle to extend the requirement in 7 years.

Third, it allows the Corps to exempt projects. The Senate provisions established mandatory review when clear triggers are met. However, the conference report gives the Corps fairly broad discretion to decide what projects get reviewed. It expands the House's loophole allowing the Corps to exempt projects that exceed the mandatory $45 million cost trigger. The Corps can exempt Continuing Authority Program projects, certain rehabilitation projects, and, most egregiously, projects it determines are not controversial or only require an Environmental Assessment rather than a full-blown Environmental Impact Statement.

It is this very decision, whether to do an EA or an EIS, that is often in need of review. Furthermore, a project's economic justification, engineering analysis, and formulation of project alternatives are critical elements that should be looked at for all major projects, not just those with significant environmental impact.

The conference report also prevents review of most ongoing studies. Although the conference report allows the Corps to exempt projects from review, it does not give the Corps equal authority to include projects. The bill includes restrictive language that prevents the Corps from reviewing studies that were initiated more than 2 years ago, or that were initiated in the last 2 years but already have an ''array of alternatives'' identified, which occurs early in the process.

The Senate language would have allowed the Corps to initiate a review for any project that does not have a draft feasibility report.

The conference report also eliminates the requirement that a review is mandatory if requested by a Federal agency. The Senate bill would have made a project review mandatory if requested by a Federal agency with the authority to review Corps projects. Instead, the conference report gives the Corps the authority to reject the request and requires the Federal agency to appeal the decision to the Council on Environmental Quality.

The Corps should be required to conduct a review made by the head of another agency that is charged with reviewing Corps projects or, at a minimum, to justify to the Council on Environmental Quality why it wants to deny such a request.

The final problem I wish to highlight is the conference report does not make sure the Corps is accountable. The conference report eliminated a key provision in the Senate bill that ensured accountability. Specifically, the provision would have required that if a project ends up in court, the same weight is given to the panel and the Corps' opinion if the Corps cannot provide a good example for why it ignored the panel's recommendations. By dropping this accountability requirement, the conference report allows the Corps to ignore the panel's recommendations, as the Corps is currently doing with its own internal review process.

I would love to be able to join my colleagues in claiming this is a ''historic moment.'' I am pleased that some of the other reforms I fought for are included in this bill. We have come a long way in the last 7 years, as evidenced by the overwhelming bipartisan majority of my colleagues who supported the Senate's reforms last year and again earlier this year.

But we have not come far enough, and that is truly regrettable. Why should the taxpayers of this country have to continue wondering if their dollars are being spent on projects that lack merit, hurt the environment or are not entirely reliable? Is not Congress finally willing to put an end to the longtime practice of doling out projects to Members regardless of those projects' merits? How many more flawed projects or wasted dollars will it take before we say enough?

I am pleased the conference report contains some modest reforms, but we can do much better than that. In fact, we did much better than that when we passed the Senate bill not long ago. Congress needs to get this right; I think the stakes are too high.

Unfortunately, for the reasons I have explained, the conference report fails to do enough. It contains severely compromised language that does not fix the status quo under which Congress uses the Corps to fund pet projects that are not justified or adequately reviewed.

I wish to also express my concern with the cost of the bill which has ballooned to $23 billion, $23 billion from the $14, $15 billion cost of the House and Senate versions.

Nearly $1 billion of the additional cost is for 19 projects that were added during conference, neither the Senate nor the House has previously reviewed these projects.

My colleagues have previously stood on the Senate floor and said the cost of the bill does not matter because WRDA is merely an authorizing bill and not an appropriations bill. We will sort out our priorities later, they say.

I think the American taxpayers join me in saying this is absolutely irresponsible and shirks our responsibilities as elected officials.

There is already a $58 billion backlog of construction projects previously authorized, and with only $2 billion annually appropriated for project construction, this means the Nation's most pressing needs face significant competition for funding and likely delays.

Furthermore, this bill authorizes a significant number of projects and studies that are beyond the Corps' primary mission areas. The Corps cannot be everything to everyone, and Congress does need to discipline itself and set priorities.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to institute a system for prioritizing Corps projects and other critical reforms. We may have an opportunity to pass those reforms sooner than some had hoped. The administration has indicated the President will veto this bill, this bloated bill.

Rather than overriding a veto, I hope the Congress will use that veto as an opportunity to rethink the flawed mindset that resulted in this bill and in previous WRDA bills. We do not do our constituents favors by spending their tax dollars on projects that are not justified or fully reviewed. We need reforms to make sure these tax dollars are spent in the most important priorities, not just on members' pork.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the WRDA conference report.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN.) The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate EPW Chair Boxer and Ranking Member INHOFE for bringing a balanced and much needed bill to the floor.

Normally this bill is a 2-year authorization, but there has not been a bill, a WRDA bill, during this administration. So I will call it the Water Resources Development Act of 2001.

Now, my State has nearly 1,000 miles of Missouri and Mississippi River frontage in addition to our lakes. Our communities rely on Corps projects for affordable water, transportation, flood protection, energy production, environmental protection, and recreational opportunities.

Nobody knows better than the farmers of Missouri and the Midwest how important river transportation is to serve the world market. This bill for my constituents means jobs, trade competitiveness, reliable and affordable energy, drinking water, and protection from floods, which can ruin property and kill people.

This is not of minor importance to those out in the world, in the Midwest, who work for a living. I am delighted we are completing our long journey to permit modernization of the Mississippi River locks. These locks were built during the Great Depression for paddle wheel boats 75 years ago. They were designed to last 50 years.

Well, they are 25 years past their design lifetime. This is a long, much needed, overdue investment in infrastructure, jobs, trade competitiveness, and environmental protection.

Sixty percent of all grain exports move through the bottleneck of obsolete locks. Some 30 percent of oil is shipped by barge, by waterway, a significant amount of coal, of cement, of fertilizer. A single medium-sized barge tow carries the same amount of freight as 870 trucks. There is a comparison for railroad, but the railroads are so full they cannot carry any more; they are at capacity. But it carries something akin to 2½ trainloads.

These facts speak volumes for the cost, pollution, and fuel efficiencies of river transportation. Throughout this long and arduous process to complete a 2-year bill in 7 years, we have been blessed with strong bipartisan support for modernizing the locks. I have already referred to the relationship of our EPW Committee.

Senator GRASSLEY has been supportive of this from the start. We would not be here today without Senator HARKIN, the occupant of the chair, Senator DURBIN, Senator OBAMA, Senator MCCASKILL, and others from the Midwest playing a key role in this becoming law. I express my gratitude.

Outside Congress, modernization of the old bottleneck looks has won the untiring support of agriculture, the waterways community, industry, labor, and community leaders. I am concerned the administration may veto this bill because they say it is too big. Well, if it were a normal 2-year bill, it would be big. But this is a 7-year bill; taking into account three cycles which we should have and have not yet passed a WRDA bill. So it is big by historic standards.

When we total the three WRDA bills passed during the 5-year periods of 1996 to 2000, a 5-year period, the authorization levels totaled almost the same as this 7-year bill, almost $21 billion.

Now, if there is a veto, I look forward to overriding it on a bipartisan basis as soon as action can be scheduled. This is an authorization bill. Without appropriations, it spends nothing. As Senators know, this bill simply adds projects to the list of items eligible for appropriations subject to the binding budget limitations faced under the appropriations process.

Put another way, this is a license to hunt. You still to have hit the bird and you can't go over the limit. So all it is is a license to ask for appropriations. The backlog of unfunded items often referred to by opponents of this bill is unfunded because many of the projects are not sufficiently high priority within tight budgets. Some may be very good projects but they do not make the cut given the limited budget. Does it make sense to say that bills passed

many years ago have to be funded before we can take a fresh look at priorities facing our waterway infrastructure and other waterway needs? I don't think so. Priorities change. Right now these items in this bill are the priorities that have been thoroughly vetted by the Corps, by all those who have input, and by the Environment and Public Works Committee in our body and in the Transportation Infrastructure Committee on the other side. I urge my colleagues to support it.

To oppose new authorizations is simply a way to pretend to save money without saving money, while unwisely assuming that all currently authorized projects are of a higher priority than the newly authorized projects contained in this bill. In many ways, this will cost money, and I will talk about that in a minute. But if there were to be a veto, the unfortunate message for water States and agricultural States in the Midwest is that water resources are not a high priority to this administration, despite the expectation of many supporters in 2000, when supporters of waterways in Missouri came out in record numbers to carry the State for the current President. The previous administration was not supportive and this administration is no better. Our concerns started with proposed construction budget cuts. Then they fired Mike Parker, a strong proponent of water resources. Then they underfunded flood control and navigation on the Missouri River. Now it would be capped off by vetoing WRDA. I truly hope that doesn't happen. They would get a grade for consistency, except that they say they support aggressive trade policies. But they say nothing about the transportation capacity vital to move the goods they want to trade, so they say. Bulk commodities can't be faxed or e-mailed or Fed-Ex'd or UPS'd in the real world to the rest of the world. Again, on our waterways in Missouri, one medium-size barge tow carries the same freight as 870 trucks with cost, pollution, fuel efficiencies, economic and environmental benefits that are obvious to all.

I was interested to read a November 2005 article in the Washington Times which reported that the President noted during a press conference with Panamanian President Torrijos: '' . . . it's in our nation's interest that this canal be modernized.'' I know the administration does not oppose modernizing the Social Security-age locks on the Mississippi River, built during the Depression for paddle-wheel boats, but they also have not yet even endorsed it. Yet there was a rousing endorsement for upgrading the waterways in Panama. My colleagues and my constituents back home believe our midwestern exporters deserve as much consideration as Chinese exporters who transit the Panama Canal. I remain hopeful the administration will agree.

While no two of us would write the bill the same way, I am pleased so much work was done for so long by so many to find a compromise that could serve the diverse needs of a nation that needs water resources to function. Among a very long list, this bill is supported by the National Corn Growers Association, the Carpenters, operating engineers, laborers, American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Soybean Association, and scores of members of the Waterway Counsel from coast to coast, communities large and small.

Our staffs have been working tirelessly on this not for days or for weeks but years. It has been a long process. We have gotten to know them like family. There is almost some regret in knowing that our family will be broken up when this bill is signed into law. But maybe we can get back on schedule and have another WRDA bill in 2 years. The staff has been tremendous. They took on tough issues, set up difficult criteria, helped to sort through competing objectives, and they never quit. While there were many who worked very hard on this over the years, including Andy Wheeler, Ruth Van Mark, Angie Giancarlo, Ken Kopocis, Jeff Rosato, Tyler Rushford, Jo-Ellen Darcy, Mike Quiello, and others, I especially thank the bipartisan staff support of Let Mon Lee with the committee. Let Mon has been working with us for all these years. He is truly part of our family. We would hate to lose him, but if that is the price for passing WRDA, so be it.

The success of our economy and its people owes a great debt to investments that were made by those before us. I urge my colleagues to make the investments now that will be providing the benefits for future generations and vote in favor of an opportunity and value for our future. We were reminded tragically a few weeks ago in Minnesota of the need to be vigilant in upgrading our infrastructure. When you see what happened in Minnesota, we saw a bridge collapse. There was a tragic loss of life. There was some disruption of commerce. But if one of these locks midway on the river between Missouri and Illinois at the bottom of the chain fails completely and bailing wire and chewing gum can only hold back the river so long and they leak not like sieves but by continuous sheets of water, if one of those locks were to blow out and fail, the impact on our economy, on commerce, would be huge, the impact we almost felt when Katrina shut off the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Fortunately, they got that undone in a couple of days. But even papers that don't normally think about water commerce and agriculture were saying what a danger this was. A failure of one of these locks, one of these half-size, outdated, overaged locks could tremendously cripple our economy, put our rural economies into a significant downturn.

I urge our leadership in this body to move quickly for a speedy override vote should a veto materialize. But again, my thanks, my congratulations, and deep appreciation to the Environment and Public Works Committee leadership and the diligent staff who have brought us to this point.

It is time we pass the 2001 WRDA bill. It may be 6 years late, but it is even more needed now than it was in 2001.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, is it a fact that I have 34 minutes remaining on my manager's time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Senator FEINGOLD graciously said he would yield me the remainder of his time with the understanding that if he needed more, I would give him some of it. So what is his amount that is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twenty minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that that be done.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, again, in a way I am glad I didn't have a chance to speak before because there has been so much interest in this bill that I waited until we had a little quieter time on the floor, although several are coming.

Part of our work is making sure that in coordination with local governments and State governments and communities and the American people, we do what we need to do so we can build our economy, so our economy has behind it the infrastructure it needs. What happens when an infrastructure fails? We saw that in Minnesota when the bridge collapsed.

I am proud the Environment and Public Works Committee held a very strong hearing at the behest of Senator KLOBUCHAR, and we are moving forward on a way to ensure that we can fund those kinds of improvements. We saw what happens when water infrastructure fails, when we look at what happened in Hurricane Katrina. We saw that the levees we thought were built to protect against category 5 storms simply didn't stand up.

There is no way we can talk our way out of the problem we face in America. The problem we face is we have an aging infrastructure. Whether it is our roads or bridges, our highways, or our water infrastructure, these need attention. That is why today is such an important day and why I am so proud to stand here, because even though not every Member will support this bill, I would say almost every Member will. Senator FEINGOLD was eloquent and he was disappointed that we didn't do everything he and Senator MCCAIN asked us on Corps reform. I understand that. We are very close friends and colleagues. The fact is, I see it a little differently. We went a very long way. I know he and I have our differences. What I wish to do, rather than take the

time to engage in an argument, is to place in the RECORD the program highlights of Corps reform initiatives that are in this bill. I ask unanimous consent that this be printed in the RECORD.

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

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007
CORPS REFORM INITIATIVES—PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Creates a truly independent review process of projects through a program of mandatory reviews with reviewers selected by the independent National Academy of Sciences.

Projects over $45 million (with an expanded definition to include beach nourishment projects), controversial projects, and projects where a governor requests a review will all be subject to independent review.

The review applies to project studies plus environmental impact statements.

The review panels will be able examine all aspects of the environmental, economic, and engineering aspects of the proposed project.

The review panels will have the opportunity to receive, evaluate, and comment upon input from States, local governments, and the public.

Recommendations of the review panel must be a part of the public project record, and any rejection of the recommendations must be explained in the record.

The costs of the review are Federal and are not contingent upon future appropriations.

SAFETY ASSURANCE REVIEWS

Creates a new responsibility to have outside experts review and assist the Corps of Engineers in the design and construction of flood damage reduction or hurricane and storm damage reduction projects to improve the performance of these critical, life-saving projects.

MITIGATION

Corps projects would have to comply with the same mitigation standards and policies established under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as any other entity.

Corps mitigation plans must provide for the same or greater ecosystem values as those lost to a water resources project through implementation of not less than in-kind mitigation.

Corps studies must include detailed mitigation plans that can be evaluated by the public and the Congress, including specific statements on the ability to carry out the mitigation plan.

Eliminates the Senate language that could have delayed mitigation up to one year.

Establishes requirements for the Corps to conduct monitoring of mitigation implementation until ecological success criteria are met. In evaluating success, the Corps must consult yearly with applicable Federal and State agencies on mitigation status.

The increased mitigation requirements apply to all new studies and any other project that must be reevaluated for any reason.

Requires the Corps to develop and implement a publicly available mitigation reporting system.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

Requires the Secretary to revise the planning Principles and Guidelines for the first time since 1983. The process must be in consultation with Federal agencies, and must solicit and consider public and expert comments.

The factors to be included in the revised Principles and Guidelines include the elements from both the Senate and House bills, ensuring the broadest look at the existing document and incorporating the most current and accurate concepts.

Establshes a national policy to maximize sustainable economic development, avoid the unwise use of floodplains and minimize adverse impacts and vulnerabilities in floodplains; and protect and restore the functions of natural systems and mitigate any unavoidable impacts.

Requires a comprehensive report on U.S. vulnerabilities and comparative risks related to flooding.

WATERSHED-BASED PLANNING

Increases Federal participation in watershed-based planning to eliminate the lack of integration of the interconnectedness of projects—a major short-coming of the failure of the hurricane protection in New Orleans.

LEVEE SAFETY

Creates a National Levee Safety Assessment program, in cooperation with the States, to address the lack of information on and assessment of levees.

Creates a publicly available database with an inventory of levees.

Requires a Federal inspection and public disclosure of all Federally-owned or operated levees, all Federally constructed but non-Federally operated levees, and non-Federally constructed levees if requested by the owner.

OTHER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Expedites the process for deauthorizing the unconstructed backlog of projects.

Creates a Federal responsibility to participate in the monitoring of ecosystem restoration projects to ensure project success.

Allows for non-profit entities to partner with the Corps of Engineers in implementing projects, which is especially important on small-scale environmental restoration projects.

Clarifies that the cost-sharing reforms enacted in 1986 apply to all projects and studies, stopping the Corps of Engineers from creating waivers and loopholes.

Expands opportunities for the beneficial reuse of dredged material for restoration and preservation benefits.

Ensures the authority of the Corps of Engineers to participate in ecosystem restoration projects that include dam removal.

Mrs. BOXER. What everyone will be able to read is the independent review we now have in place in the bill that is truly independent, done by the National Academy of Sciences, which includes safety assurance reviews, mitigation, planning principles and guidelines, watershed-based planning, levee safety, and other program improvements, including expediting the process for deauthorizing the unconstructed backlog of projects. Rather than get into a big argument, to me it is such a positive day today.

I see the Senator from Virginia coming to say a few words.

This is a very important day. We are struggling in the Senate to work together. The war in Iraq has torn us apart. It is very hard. But on this matter of building an infrastructure and making sure it works, we are as one. This conference report has the support of my ranking member, Senator INHOFE, the entire Environment and Public Works Committee. It is important to note that the conference report was signed by every conferee from both Chambers. The conference report was signed by every conferee, Republican, Democratic, Independent, as they may be, in both Chambers. The conference report has already received an overwhelming vote in the House: 381 in favor; 40 opposed. Imagine what a wonderful message that is that we can work together.

I also say for the record that this conference report fully complies with the rules of the Senate as amended by S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. Under the requirements of new rule XLIV, I certify that each congressionally directed spending item in the conference report and the name of each Senator who submitted a request to the committee for that item has been identified through a chart that has been available on the committee Web site at least 48 hours prior to the vote on this conference report. So we have been faithful as we must be to the new rule XLIV on our ethics, where you can see what every Senator requested and a certification that in fact there is no conflict of interest, no pecuniary interest on the part of the Senator or any member of the immediate family. This is truly a bipartisan bill.

I am going to make a unanimous consent request that at the conclusion of my 10 minutes, Senator CARDIN be recognized for up to 10 minutes and that then Senator WARNER be recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I believe I was on the floor before the Senator from Maryland.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, the Senator from Maryland has been on the floor all day.

Mr. WARNER. Fine. Well, I am not trying to run this.

Mrs. BOXER. How much time would my colleague wish?

Mr. WARNER. I am going to take 2 or 3 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Then why don't we give you 5 minutes first and then 10 minutes for Senator CARDIN.

Mr. WARNER. Does that accommodate my colleague?

Mrs. BOXER. He is very pleased with that.

How many more minutes do I have on my 10 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 23 minutes remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. So, again, we have complied with the new ethics rules. I want to say also, in terms of the Corps reform matters, there is an environmental organization, American Rivers, and they have written a very important release that I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

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

American Rivers, August 1, 2007

WATER BILL BEGINS PROCESS OF MODERNIZING THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Washington, DC—In a move that will help communities, taxpayers, and the environment, a House-Senate Conference Committee has produced reforms in a bill that will improve how the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) does business. The Water Resources

Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), H.R. 1495, will begin moving the Corps into the 21st century.

The Corps is the nation's primary river management agency and in 2006 accepted responsibility for faulty floodwall and levee designs that led to the tragic flooding of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. The Corps' designs were so flawed that levees and floodwalls collapsed in the face of a storm they should have withstood. Corps projects also destroyed vital coastal wetlands that could have reduced the Hurricane's storm surge, and funneled that surge into the heart of New Orleans. The problems with Corps planning highlighted by Katrina affect Corps projects across the country.

The WRDA bill will produce critical improvements to the Corps' planning process, including requiring an update of the Corps' woefully obsolete planning guidelines that dictate how the Corps evaluates specific projects. The bill will also require the Corps to do a much better job of replacing habitat lost to its projects. The Corps now routinely ignores the basic wetlands mitigation standards that the agency applies to private citizens. The bill will also establish a new policy that gives a stronger emphasis on protecting the environment and the natural systems that provide critical natural flood protection to communities. It also directs that there be a comprehensive study of the nation's flood risks and flood management programs.

''The reforms in this bill begin to put the Corps on track towards becoming a more reliable and credible agency,'' says American Rivers' president Rebecca Wodder. ''While we hoped that Congress would go farther in several critical areas, we are pleased with the passage of this first round of urgently needed changes. We intend to see that these changes are executed to their fullest extent and call out any weaknesses in this new process.''

The gains in the WRDA bill would not have been possible without the tireless work from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and both sides of Capitol Hill. Senators Russ Feingold (D–WI) and John McCain (R–AZ) have long championed the issue of Corps reform, and Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Barbara Boxer (D–CA) and House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar (D–MN) deserve praise for working to change key aspects of how the Corps operates.

Unfortunately, the conferees failed to adopt the robust independent review provision that Senators Russ Feingold (D–WI) and John McCain (R–AZ) and others had secured in the Senate version of the WRDA bill in the last 2 years. The conferees instead adopted a project review provision that lacks complete independence. The final bill contains several loopholes that would allow the Corps to avoid review under certain circumstances and ignore a review panel's recommendations. Worse still, the provision also inexplicably disappears after 7 years. Independent review is particularly important in light of the flooding of New Orleans and the recent Government Accountability Office findings that Corps project studies were so flawed that they could not provide a reasonable basis for decision making.

''The nation has been very well served by the critical leadership of Senators Feingold and McCain to reform the Corps,'' says Melissa Samet, Senior Director for Water Resources for American Rivers. ''We look forward to working with them to ensure that the Corps strictly adheres to the reforms included in this bill and that additional reforms as included in future legislation.''

''Congress has taken a first step towards more responsible river management,'' adds Wodder. ''American Rivers and our colleagues throughout the nation will be watching to see that the Corps lives up to the intent of the original authors of this legislation and we will continue to fight further reforms to ensure public safety and environmental sustainability.''

Mrs. BOXER. They certainly believe we should have gone further with Corps reform. That is clear.

But they do say:

The reforms in this bill begin to put the Corps on track towards becoming a more reliable and credible agency.

This is important. They do say:

The gains in the WRDA bill would not have been possible without the tireless work from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

They name some names of Senators.

Even though, as I say, they would have wanted 100 percent of what Senator FEINGOLD asked for, they again say:

Congress has taken a first step towards more responsible river management.

I feel pleased with this result. I know sometimes we see a glass half full and sometimes we see it half empty. I see it half full. I am proud we made these amazing strides toward Corps reform. Senator FEINGOLD is, shall we say, very disappointed, and I respect that. I do not see it the way he sees it.

So when I come back to some more of my time—but I will yield at this time—I will talk about how important this bill is to the health and safety of our families, our communities, and our economy. At this time I yield and we will go to the unanimous consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I listened with great interest to our distinguished chairwoman. I say to her, I commend you on your leadership and that of our distinguished ranking colleague, Senator INHOFE. It is quite an achievement. It has been 6 years of working to get here, and I have been pleased to be a member of this committee for a couple decades almost now. But it is a great achievement. I strongly support what you have been able to do and personally thank you for your inclusion of an amendment that I have felt very important. Senator WEBB, my colleague from Virginia, and I announced on July 30 the basic text of that amendment. I am pleased today to add a few closing words.

The conference report—likely my last WRDA as a Senator—includes the high priority Craney Island Eastward Expansion project. Craney Island represents a significant opportunity for the Commonwealth to be home to the development of state-of-the-art cargo operations. The project will accommodate a major new terminal for the Virginia Port Authority and will create over 54,000 new jobs annually, with wages of about $1.7 billion.

Now, this port serves not only the Commonwealth of Virginia, but its tentacles reach deep into America. Many States are served.

As home to the world's largest naval base; that is, the Tidewater region, and as one of the business commercial ports on the east coast, Hampton Roads is a strategic, critical port necessary for national defense, commerce, and trade. So this project will also directly and indirectly serve our national defense.

This project will help position the Hampton Roads region to strengthen its position as a major east coast port. The Port of Virginia serves as a gateway. It is an interesting term; it is a ''gateway.'' In other words, things flow in, things flow out, and not just for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Almost every State in the Union ships down through this port on some occasions. More than 55 percent of the cargo we move comes from outside of the borders of the Commonwealth of Virginia. That is to say, this project is not just important for Virginians but for other States and companies that rely on their goods moving through the port in a reliable and cost-effective, safe manner.

For that reason, I am pleased the cost share for this project will be equally divided—equally divided—between the Commonwealth of Virginia, through its port authority, and the Federal Government. This is clearly a project with strong national benefits, and it is only fitting that in this case the Federal Government help shoulder part of the cost because of the national security interests and the fact that we serve so many other States.

Again, I thank my distinguished chairman and the ranking member of our committee and others who made this amendment possible.

I yield back the remainder of my time to my good friend and colleague, such as he may continue with his speech.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if I might make a unanimous consent request before my good colleague speaks.

First of all, because my friends on the other side are looking for time, I yield them 3 minutes of my time, to Senator INHOFE, right off the bat—3 minutes. If the Chair could add that to the time they have remaining.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following Senator CARDIN, Senator DEMINT be recognized for up to 20 minutes.

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

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. I start by thanking Senator BOXER for her incredible leadership and Senator INHOFE for bringing forward a process that allows us to reach this moment where, after 7 years, we are going to be able to pass a Water Resources Development Act.

Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE have developed a process where we could come forward with programs that are extremely important to our country in a fiscally responsible manner,

where we can come together in a nonpartisan—not only bipartisan but nonpartisan—way to move forward on this legislation.

Let me start off by saying that in our country today we spend .3 percent of our gross domestic product on infrastructure and buildings. That is deplorable. We saw the consequences of that failure to invest in our infrastructure—in our roads and our bridges and our buildings—in what happened in Minnesota with the collapse of a bridge.

In the Environment and Public Works Committee, we had a hearing on what we need to do as far as wastewater treatment facility plants and how there are literally hundreds of projects that go unfunded that are damaging our health and damaging our environment.

Well, today we are prepared to move forward with what I think is an extremely important bill. Once again, I congratulate the leadership on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER, for making this possible.

This bill is very important to our country. It is very important to our future. I am proud to be a member of the committee and proud to be a supporter of this legislation.

Let me comment for a few minutes as to what it means for the region of the country I represent, in this general area where we all are today.

We have heard a lot about how this is going to help the people of Louisiana, which I strongly support. I think we all have a responsibility to deal with the problems from Katrina. We heard how it is going to help in regard to the Everglades.

This bill is the most important act in regard to the Chesapeake Bay, which is a national treasure, and helps give a model as to how we can reclaim a body of water that is impacted by so many jurisdictions and States. We not only provide for the restoration funds that are important for the Chesapeake Bay, but we also provide, for the very first time, that the Army Corps will supplement the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to repair and improve wastewater treatment facilities that benefit the Chesapeake Bay.

Specifically, Blue Plains will benefit from this legislation. The users in northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia—all of us—will benefit from the wastewater treatment facility improvements at Blue Plains.

The new EPA permit for Blue Plains requires that the nitrogen load from the plant be reduced by more than 4 million pounds annually. This will be the largest single nutrient reduction project in the bay watershed in a decade. All the experts say that should be our highest priority in regard to the Chesapeake Bay.

I am also pleased there is $20 million in regard to oyster restoration included in this legislation, which is very important for the Chesapeake Bay and very important for our environment. So we are improving the Chesapeake Bay by this legislation, but we are also dealing with the economic realities of our waterways.

The Port of Baltimore contributes $2 billion to our State's economy, employing 18,000 Marylanders directly, and tens of thousands more indirectly.

I listened to my colleague from Virginia talk about the Port of Virginia. As with the Port of Virginia, the Port of Baltimore is vital to our national security, our national interest. This legislation extends the authorization for the 50-foot dredging of the Baltimore Harbor and channels, which is very important to our economy, very important to our region.

But the legislation does more. It continues the commitment of the Army Corps and our communities to Poplar Island. Poplar Island was once an inhabited island. It is no longer the case. But what we have done with Poplar Island is we have made it a plus-plus. We have a location for the dredge materials from the dredging in the Chesapeake Bay and our harbors, but we have also created an environmental advantage. Poplar Island has risen phoenix-like from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. President, 570 acres of upland habitat and an additional 570 acres of wetland habitat are being created through the leadership of this Congress. That is good news for our environment and good news for our economy. Poplar Island is a national model of how we should do the dredging and environmental improvements. There is more in it for our region.

Smith Island is a remote inhabited island in the Chesapeake Bay on the Maryland-Virginia border. It has lost 3,300 acres of wetlands, and it is threatened to be totally lost to erosion. This bill authorizes the construction of 2 miles of breakwaters to protect over 2,100 acres of wetlands and underwater grassbeds. It is very important to our environment, very important to the people who happen to live on Smith Island. I am pleased we have included that in this legislation.

This bill helps from the eastern shore of Maryland, to the Chesapeake Bay, to the mountains of western Maryland. The rewatering of the C&O Canal near Cumberland will not only help as far as the historical restoration of that part of our State but will also be important for flood control.

This legislation is comprehensive. It helps all the regions of our country, but helps our Nation as a whole. I am proud to be a supporter of this legislation. I am proud to have served on the committee that helped create it. I urge my colleagues not only to support this legislation but urge the President to please understand how important this bill is to our country.

It is a modest investment. It starts to reverse the process where, for too long, we have ignored our infrastructure in this country. It is the right plan for America's future. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back my time and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I rise to express my concerns and disappointment about a number of provisions that have been added to this bill, the Water Resources Development Act, the bill we refer to as WRDA, that were not part of the bill we passed in the Senate or not part of the bill that was passed in the House.

These provisions are earmarks because they direct spending directly at the request of a Member to a specific entity in their home State or district. Unfortunately, these earmarks were not passed by either body in an open or transparent way. Instead, they were added behind closed doors in the dark of night, as we sometimes say here. As a result, these earmarks cannot easily be debated, amended, or removed from the bill.

I am very disappointed these provisions were added in secret. That is not how we should do things here, and it is a direct violation of a stated goal of the ethics bill that was recently passed and signed by the President 10 days ago.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle came down to the floor one by one and praised the new ethics bill because they said it would stop earmarks from being added in the dark of night. I questioned the effectiveness of these provisions at that time because they had been watered down behind closed doors. Yet my colleagues on the other side said it was the most sweeping ethics reform in decades. They said there would be no more secret earmarks added to our bills in conference.

According to Taxpayers for Common Sense, this WRDA conference report contains numerous earmarks that were not part of either the House or the Senate bill. Unfortunately, anytime we talk about earmarks, it seems very personal because it usually has a Member's name on it, so I will start with South Carolina because one of the earmarks added in conference was for South Carolina. Obviously, I would like to do everything I can to help my own State, but this was not the time or the way to do it. There are a number of items for $10 million, $11 million, but, unfortunately, there is one item in here for $1.8 billion. That earmark alone is more than 10 percent of the total cost of the original bill. This was added in conference. It was not debated or voted on. Now it is coming back and it is unamendable.

All of these projects that were added have added to the cost of this bill, and actually the cost has exploded. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the projects contained in this bill totalled some $14 billion when it left the Senate, but then it was taken to conference. Behind closed doors, amounts were raised, new projects were added, reforms were dropped, and the bill now costs $23.2 billion. That is right. The

price of this bill has increased 66 percent since it left the floor of the Senate.

I know my colleagues, the Senator from California and the Senator from Oklahoma, have worked very hard on this bill, and I believe there are some good things in it. I was very pleased to work with the Senator from California on some reforms that will help us deauthorize projects that have not been funded in 5 years or more and are currently inactive. As my colleagues know, the long list of backlogged projects makes it very difficult for the Corps of Engineers to focus on real priorities. I am looking forward to working with the Senator from California to get a good list of the inactive projects from the administration so the committee can deauthorize them in the next WRDA bill. The Senator has told me she will deauthorize these projects, but if for some reason we are not able to get that done, this bill provides an automatic mechanism to deauthorize by the end of the fiscal year, following the fiscal year in which the projects appear on the inactive list. This reform is more important than ever because the bill we are passing now or bringing back up now increases the backlog of projects from $58 billion to approximately $80 billion. So while this bill takes one step forward, unfortunately, it takes two steps back.

The pricetag of this bill is too high, and it violates an important principle we need to honor. It includes new provisions that were not in the bills we passed, and that has to stop. That is why I offered an amendment, along with Senator ENSIGN and Senator MCCAIN, to the ethics bill earlier this year that would clarify that earmarks added in conference were subject to rule XXVIII of the standing rules of the Senate, which prohibits what we call out-of-scope matter from being added to our bills in conference and which can only be waived by 67 votes. Further, the amendment we offered would have created a 60-vote point of order against earmarks added in conference. If this point of order was sustained, the provisions would be taken out of the bill.

Even the liberal Los Angeles Times editorial board this weekend made their support for such a rule known. In a weekend editorial entitled ''The Value of Congressional Pork,'' the L.A. Times said such a rule was a worthy proposal that would make it harder for lawmakers to insert last-minute goodies during reconciliation of Senate and House bills. This is just plain good Government.

Unfortunately, the clarification to rule XXVIII was eliminated from the final bill, even though it was unanimously accepted here on the floor in January. Even worse, the majority leader is now saying the 60-vote point of order against what we call airdropped earmarks should only apply to appropriations bills. This is very disappointing. There is absolutely no reason why we should restrict authorization earmarks. They can be as wasteful, as misguided and, I am afraid, as corrupting as appropriations earmarks. Authorization earmarks can be traded for bribes as easily as appropriations earmarks.

After checking with the Senate Parliamentarian, I understand there is some confusion over the definition of earmarks for this particular rule. The rule says it applies to provisions that provide a level of funding to a specific project. What could be clearer? All the projects I read about earlier fit that definition, regardless of whether they are appropriations or authorizations. If people want to parse these terms and say authorizations are not actual funding, then I am afraid we are not being completely honest.

We all know how the Corps of Engineers works. We pass WRDA bills that tell the Corps what projects to do, and then their annual appropriations bills provide money to complete these projects. But without an authorization in WRDA, the projects will not go forward. Authorizations are important, and we should be as open and as transparent about them as we are for appropriations.

I intended to raise a point of order today against these new provisions under rule XLIV which was part of the ethics bill, but I understand the unanimous consent agreement we are operating under prohibits me from doing so. In a minute I am going to ask for unanimous consent to be allowed to make this point of order against the provision, and if I am allowed to do that and the Chair rules that the point of order is acceptable under the rule, then, of course, I would urge my colleagues to sustain this point of order so we can take these provisions out. But before I do this, I would like to ask how much time I have remaining of my 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DEMINT. I would like to reserve the remainder of my time but yield 5 minutes to my colleague, Senator MCCASKILL.

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

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator yielding me some time. This is a unique bill in many ways. It is unique because there is a different set of rules when it comes to the water projects bill and the water resources development in this country for the Army Corps of Engineers. I believe as a former auditor we should be allowing the Army Corps of Engineers to direct funding based on a cost-benefit analysis. A cost-benefit analysis would allow the prioritization of projects based on the best value for our dollar.

The law requires, unlike any other place in our Government—it was explained to me when I got here the law requires that Congress direct this spending. I am uncomfortable with that. This is the only place this year that my name is listed on a specific funding request for Missouri, and I am not comfortable with that. I understand it is a reality this law requires, that if Congress is not directing this funding, there is no funding. I believe very much we should reform the way we fund the Army Corps of Engineers projects. I believe it should be driven by a cost-benefit analysis.

It is hard to understand why in this area, unlike any other area, not only are we in a position to decide level of funding, we are going to decide every single project. Now, since this is so unique, it is even more important that we have complete transparency. Even though I was uncomfortable with requesting specific funding, I understood the unique nature of this particular bill, but I was comforted by the fact that I believed all the projects were going to have a public airing, that they were going to be included in either the House bill or the Senate bill, and that there were not going to be any projects that were put into the authorization bill through the conference process. Unfortunately, that happened. That would bring me to the point of having to vote no on this bill because I believe very strongly in the principle that whatever we include must be included in either the deliberations of the House or the Senate.

This isn't about the projects and the merit of the projects. I am sure they are all very meritorious. In fact, painfully for me, one of them is in Missouri. This isn't about the projects; this is about the process. This isn't about Democrats and this isn't about Republicans. This is about a bad habit. This is about getting into the habit of directing authorization or spending in a conference report instead of under the bright lights of the Senate floor, the House Floor or committee work. We need to stop putting projects in conference reports that were not in the bill. Some people will say it doesn't matter; we have a backlog of all these projects. Well, if it doesn't matter, why do we need to do it? If it does matter, it ought to be important enough to be in one bill or the other.

I believe we need to reform not only the way we fund the Corps of Engineers, to give more deference to their discretion based on cost-benefit analysis, and I believe we need to stop the bad habit of always putting projects in a conference report without the full affirmation and public airing that the House and Senate deliberations provide.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks of my colleague. I would like to confirm what she has said. I take no issue with the authority of the Senate to designate spending, particularly in authorization bills. While this practice has certainly been abused, particularly in our appropriations bills over the years, my point

today is not to suggest that our committee and the floor of the Senate do not have the right to authorize money for particular projects, but I believe, as Senator MCCASKILL has said and made clear, that in the debate on the Senate floor, it seemed we unanimously agreed these projects should be brought to the floor of the Senate and that if someone wanted to question them, we could have those amendments, and we could ultimately vote on the whole package. But it seemed clear we all agreed that new earmarks should not be added in conference and then for that conference bill to come back without any chance of amending it. That is not the type of business we talked about in the whole ethics debate. So my issue is not with our ability to earmark or even the practice of authorization bills designating spending but that they are added in conference when we all agreed that if it was not added in either the Senate or the House bill, it could not be added in conference.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to raise a point of order under rule XLIV.

Mrs. BOXER. I object. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me say this. For 7 years, we waited for flood control and then we saw Katrina. For 7 years, we have waited for environmental restoration. For 7 years, we have waited for navigation improvements. For 7 years, we have waited, and the bottom line is, every single project in this bill has a letter attached to it saying who asked for it, whether it was added in conference, added in the first bill, the second or the third.

I would urge that we get on with this today, and I object to the unanimous consent request that we slow this thing down.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is noted.

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I would like to suggest that one of the reasons New Orleans was not prepared for Katrina is we have so many problems with our infrastructure in the way we politically meddle with the priorities of States, particularly with the Corps of Engineers that has a backlog of billions of dollars over many years. We refuse to clear out those backlogs so the Corps can focus on that which needs to be done, such as the levees in New Orleans. Instead, year after year, we add one earmark after another, until the Corps has no focus at all on what they are doing, and we are trying to direct from Washington what our water projects should be.

The fact that we have plussed this bill up from $14 billion to over $23 billion, a 66-percent increase since this bill left the Senate floor, says we have to have some shame. We have to have some honor in this body. If we are going to do this, let's do it in a way that we all said we would, and that is to bring these to the floor so we can debate and vote on them instead of adding them in and trying to slip them by in a conference bill.

I am very disappointed in this body, particularly after all the grand debate about ethics reform, the disclosure of earmarks, the fact that none would be added in secret. Over the last few weeks, we have pretty much backtracked on everything we have talked about, to the point where even liberal publications across the country are talking about the pork we are producing in the Senate. Instead of doing the Nation's business and delegating authority to States, we are in effect weakening our ability to have a national infrastructure that is safe and works for all Americans. I am very disappointed not only that this has been done but that a Member of the Senate is not even allowed to raise a point of order against the fact that it has been done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I yield myself 4 minutes at this time.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that now I have 14 minutes remaining on my side. Senator INHOFE has how much time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. He has 22½, and the Senator has about 13½.

Mrs. BOXER. And Senator FEINGOLD retains 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. If he doesn't take that 20 minutes, Senator INHOFE and I will share that time.

I am sorry that Senator DEMINT has left the floor, which oftentimes happens after a Senator speaks. But I have to say that when I said we need to do these Katrina-related fixes, his answer was that the reason we had a problem with Katrina in the first place is the Corps didn't do a good job, and I think certainly the Corps didn't live up to our expectations. But what Senator DEMINT doesn't mention is that in this bill before us, because of the hard work of Senator FEINGOLD and others, we have now put into this bill an independent review process where there will be no projects going forward unless and until there is an independent report that the National Academy of Sciences will, in fact, oversee. We have gone light years from where we were before. That is why we have so much strong support for the bill. The Audubon Society supports the bill, along with the Clean Water Fund, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Society, the National Water Resources Association, and on and on and on. The fact is, if we had allowed the DeMint request to go forward, we would be back to square one. We cannot afford that. It has been 7 long years.

Again, the health of our communities is at stake. The safety of our families is at stake. I could talk about Sacramento. Finally, we have language in the authorization to move forward with the proper flood control for the community of Sacramento. Mr. President, 300,000 people live there. It is the home of our State, the capital of our State. We finally reached agreement. These are not agreements that come from the top down; they come from local government up. I think it is important, as colleagues come to the floor to in a way demean this process, to understand if they demean the process, they are demeaning their own communities. In Oklahoma, or in California, or Georgia—I see Senator ISAKSON here. He and Senator BAUCUS were invaluable to Senator INHOFE and me in doing all of this.

The fact is these projects and these ideas and these needs come up from local governments. As a matter of fact, homeowners' associations find themselves faced with dangerous circumstances because a river is rising and there have not been the needed improvements. Senator INHOFE and I share a commitment to shoring up our infrastructure, including water resources, and I think when we look at all of the things that come before us—and we are so torn in half here, Democrat versus Republican—here we have an opportunity to move forward in a bipartisan fashion. As Senator INHOFE would say in his way, because he has been hammering at this, this is one step of a very important process. We have added these independent reviews so that we have checks and balances all the way through.

I will retain the remainder of my time. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we have 22 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I yield 7 minutes to the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma and Chairman BOXER and Subcommittee Chairman BAUCUS for their outstanding work on the WRDA bill. I urge my colleagues to support the conference report and point out the critical need for the infrastructure we have in this country.

Historically, every 2 years we have passed the WRDA bill. Now we have gone 7 years without that. What happened in the last 7 years? We have had significant droughts, we have had Katrina, and we have had other great tragedies. It is about time that we came back to the floor and passed a comprehensive bill.

I know there has been criticism of the amount of the bill. I saw a CBO score of about $23 billion. I remind my colleagues that this is an authorization, No. 1. No. 2, it is 7 years in the making, not 2. No. 3, we have had significant tragedies and have significant threats in our own States that need to be addressed and need to be prioritized.

I will take my own State as an example. I represent a State with a major metropolitan area, Atlanta. That city has 5 million people whose water source is Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River. We don't have aquifers in the north to draw from, only the surface water that we retain. Through the leadership of a visionary Governor a few years ago, we passed the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District to take the consolidated area of north Georgia and put it into a singular planning district for water purposes, management of storm water, to see if we could maximize the return we get on the investment we make in the most precious thing we have, our water.

This legislation has money for conveyance systems. Local water authorities joined together with a regional plan to cooperate and build a solid water infrastructure.

Secondly, the Big Creek Water Management and Restoration Program is in here, which I started 9 years ago with the city of Roswell, which was developed to manage storm water, its runoff, and control water better in a major urban area. It was cited by the EPA as one of the most outstanding projects of its type in America.

Also in here is a very visionary agreement between the Governor of Georgia and the Governor of South Carolina, who signed a bistate water compact for the construction of a port to be operated jointly by the State of Georgia and the State of South Carolina in Jasper County, SC, on the Savannah River. The Ports of Charleston and Savannah are two of the major ports on the east coast of the United States. With this planned agreement and the funding that pays for the study put up by those States, and the study authorized in this legislation, these two States will set a historic precedent to reach out together and form partnerships so as to make the maximum use of the port capabilities and facilities of our States on the Atlantic Coast.

A lot of work has gone into this legislation. Senator INHOFE has worked tirelessly, as has Chairman BOXER, but I want to mention the ones who don't get much credit: Mike Quiello and Caroline McLean, on my own staff; Angie Giancarlo; Let Mon Lee; Jeff Rosato; Ken Kopocis; Tyler Rushforth; Paul Wilkins; and Jo-Ellen Darcy, all who spent countless hours to make this legislation come to pass.

I thank the ranking member for the time. I commit my vote to passage of the conference report and ask my colleagues to join me and show a significant vote for the WRDA conference committee report.

I yield back my time.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, let me thank the Senator from Georgia. Working on these authorization committees is not easy. We have a lot of hearings and a lot of expertise, people looking, studying to see what is deserving to be authorized. I can tell you that the Senator from Georgia—I don't know of a member on the committee who has worked harder, or maybe even as hard as the Senator from Georgia. So I thank him for coming here today and making his statement.

I know my good friend from South Carolina, Senator DEMINT, would not intentionally misrepresent anything, but when he says once it is authorized, it is just like spending, that isn't true. I know he hasn't thought that through or he would not make that statement. We have a backlog, which has already been talked about several times here—a backlog of some $32 billion of Corps projects that have been authorized but haven't been done. That speaks for itself. They are out there. How can you say that—by the way, it is worthwhile saying or some people might say: Why are you authorizing more if they haven't even done those? Maybe some of them are no longer necessary. I will give you a couple examples. In Oklahoma, we have a channel that goes all the way to Muskogee, OK, or the Port of Katusa. A lot of people don't think of us as being navigable in Oklahoma, but we are. It is a short distance that is 9 feet, where the choke is. So we have had it authorized for a long period of time to make that a 12-foot channel. It would make a huge difference. It hasn't been authorized.

The Passaic River in New Jersey has a flood control tunnel up there that was authorized at $1.2 billion back in 1990. That wasn't last year or the year before. So far, no money has come in there.

Mr. President, I was disappointed in the way time was handled here. Let me make a few comments and then perhaps see if anybody else comes down who needs to be heard.

Right now, let me first redeem myself. We have a lot of people talking about this. I know a lot of people are watching, saying we are going to find out who the conservatives are. There are a lot of ''born-again'' conservatives I have heard so far, who are not conservative but are opposing an authorization bill. I say that, redeeming myself, in that—every organization, including Human Events and the American Conservative Union, says I am not No. 2 or No. 3, Mr. President, I am No. 1. Did you know that I am the No. 1 most conservative Member of the Senate?

I am here to tell you something that is very unpopular because nobody is going to understand it after I explain it to you. I will get right into it. I am going to tell you what authorization is. I hope some Members are listening, but I fear they are not. I think minds are made up. By the way, this bill will pass by an overwhelming majority. No question about that. In a way, we are wasting a lot of time right now. But I think it is important that at least somebody says something that has to be said: What is authorization all about?

The background of authorization goes all the way back to 1816. In 1816, our permanent committees were put together. We didn't have committees prior to that. So the responsibilities of authorizing and appropriating were put into these 11 committees in accordance with jurisdiction.

By 1867, 51 years later, the Senate created the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee had the idea that there was to be separate authorizing language with the appropriations. They were going to actually spend the money. Somebody else was going to do the authorization.

In 1899, it was seen that they had kind of moved together, so the Appropriations Committee was actually legislating on appropriation bills.

In 1922, a major change took place. In 1922, after the Accounting Act of 1921, the Senate changed the rules. They established not only that the Senators were going to be appropriating and not authorizing on the appropriations bills, but that is when the current rule XVI came into effect. It had been there for a different purpose. Rule XVI says if the appropriators appropriate something that is not authorized, it is going to take a 60-vote point of order. That is huge. That was very clear in 1922. They said we want to make it virtually impossible for the appropriators, without going through any authorization, to unilaterally say we ought to have all these projects; we don't care if they are worthwhile or not. That is what happened.

Then, slowly, since that time it has been going back to the appropriators getting more and more power. They have been diminishing the power of the authorizers.

Put up the military chart.

I am on another committee.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 12 minutes 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Armed Services Committee is an authorization committee. Let me tell you why the process of authorizing is important. I could use almost any example I want to, but I will use missile defense.

Right now, there are very few people around since 9/11 who don't know that there are monsters out there who will send a missile into the United States. We now have a missile defense system we are still developing. There are three phases: the boost phase, the midcourse phase, and the terminal phase.

In the boost phase, quite frankly, we do not have anything that will knock down a missile. We are working on two systems: one, a kinetic energy booster, and the other is an airborne laser system. The airborne laser system is going to be great for us, but we are not there yet.

Midcourse—we all have heard about the AEGIS system. I believe there are 16 AEGIS ships right now. They have the capability of knocking down a missile during the midcourse phase. We also have ground-based systems. We

know we need this redundancy because we don't know from where these missiles are going to be fired. We all know the President has been trying to get a location in Eastern Europe and up around the old Soviet Union, and it has been very difficult. What we ultimately have to have is a way of knocking these missiles down from anyplace in midcourse. We have two systems. An appropriator might look at that and say: I know where we can save money. We don't need two midcourse systems; one is enough. But that is not right because the expertise in the authorizing committees says we have to have that coverage.

Lastly, the terminal phase. We know about the THAAD system, the PAC–3, the Patriot Capability-3 advanced system. One may say they are redundant, but they are not.

Here is the point I am trying to make. The reason we know, in the Senate Armed Services Committee, it is important we have these systems is because we are staffed with a lot of really smart people. They are specialists in this area of national defense. I could have used the F–22 versus the F–35 or any other system we have, but the point is that the Armed Services Committee is an authorizing committee which is staffed with experts. So is the Environment and Public Works Committee. We have people who are experts in certain areas. The committee authorizes projects for the future.

If we take away the Senate Armed Services Committee and the committee is no longer able to authorize, then we are going to have appropriators sitting around waiting for somebody to come up with what they want. Maybe it is a contractor they know who has a system and they will go ahead and use that system, but they wouldn't have the expertise.

I am not bashing appropriators. That is a very important part of the process. But they have to have some kind of a discipline in their spending. There is no discipline.

Let me mention something else that would be very unpopular. I said this on the floor during the Transportation reauthorization bill, which, at the time the Republicans were in the majority, I chaired the committee Senator BOXER now chairs. At that time, a lot of people were trying to latch on to items that were wrong so they could use them to demagog. Remember the famous bridge to nowhere? Actually, it would have been more accurate to say it is a bridge to nobody because the bridge actually went someplace where they couldn't get except by barge traffic and they could never develop that area.

One of the few things that works well in Government, in my estimation, is the way we do the Transportation reauthorization. Everyone pays at the pump, and then the money comes into the highway trust fund. Then we establish criteria.

Senator BOXER will remember that we had some 30 criteria we used with the Transportation reauthorization bill. One of the criteria was, What do the people at home want? In the case of the bridge to nowhere, the 100 projects the State of Alaska said they wanted to do with their tax dollars, it was No. 5 from the top. We, in our infinite wisdom in Washington, say we are smarter than the dumb people out in the States. We said: Even though this is what you want or have to have, you can't have it because we have this infinite wisdom in Washington.

I use these examples only because the authorizing system does work. We are supposed to pass this water resources development reauthorization every 2 years. If we had done that every 2 years, we would not be faced with what we are faced today. We would not be looking at $21 billion. It averages out about $3 billion, if my math serves me correctly. We tried to get a bill in 2002, and we were not able to do it. We tried in 2004, and we were not able to do it. We tried in 2006, and that didn't work, either. In fact, we did our job; we just ran out of time, as I recall. Now it is 2007. If we don't do it this time, it is going to be another year, and it is going to mean the appropriators are going to go ahead and do these projects without going through the right authorizing process.

I have to say it, and I say it in all sincerity to my good conservative friends: This is not money we are spending; it is authorizing projects as to what meets certain criteria. If we look at some of the problems we are having right now—Hurricane Katrina, that was not foreseen and that was a wake-up call. It could happen anywhere. It was an infrastructure need. The collapse of the bridge in Minneapolis, that was a bridge on an interstate. In Oklahoma, on I–40, we have a bridge built with the same technology at the same time, and right now chunks of concrete are dropping off that bridge and falling down below. We have, in my State of Oklahoma, the worst bridge situation. I am not proud of this fact, but it is true. We have more deteriorating bridges than any other State. These are projects we need to be doing.

I am ranked as the No. 1 most conservative politician, but I have always been a big spender in two areas: One, defend America—we need to defend America; no one else is going to do that for us—and No. 2, infrastructure. That is what we have talked about today.

We went through the long, involved Transportation reauthorization. Mr. President, I am embarrassed to tell you, as sizable as that Transportation reauthorization bill was, if we were able to spend all the money that was authorized, it would not even maintain the current system we have today.

Let me mention one other point. Where were my conservative friends in 2000 when we passed this huge, open-ended bill called the Everglades Restoration Act? It didn't have any Corps of Engineers report. It did not have a Chief's report. It was open-ended, and the vote was 99 to 1. Guess who the one was. It was me. Where were my conservative friends at that time? That was huge.

In retrospect, I was right and the other 99 were wrong. They might argue with me on that point. But, nonetheless, in the current bill, there are now some reports in the Everglades, so we are doing it the right way with this bill.

I reserve the remainder of my time in case somebody else wishes to speak, but I have to say, in case I run out of time, I have a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Secretary Woodley, and the arguments they use as to why they would recommend the President veto this bill are not right.

Frankly, I am really disappointed. If we are going to pass this bill—and it is going to be passed by a veto-proof margin—if the President vetoes it, he knows it is going to be overridden, and I have to question why he would veto it. Again, we are reauthorizing. We are not appropriating one nickel with this bill.

I retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I yield 6 minutes to Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to follow up on the comments of the good Senator from Oklahoma, who I believe made some very appropriate and strong arguments for this bill.

There are some reasons to vote against the bill, I guess, but I wouldn't say one of them is because you are a conservative. The Senator from Oklahoma is absolutely correct, this is a conservative approach to infrastructure. This is the right approach. This is about investments. Whether one is representing the State of California, which tends to be sometimes more liberal on issues, or representing a State such as Oklahoma, which tends to be more conservative, this is the right vote.

My colleagues can vote against this bill because they don't think it has enough Corps reforms. Senator FEINGOLD's position, although I disagree with it, is a legitimate position. He just believes the Corps should have more reforms. Actually, I agree with a lot of what he says. But we couldn't get a majority of Senators to go along with his proposal. We had to drop it or sacrifice the whole bill. I did not think it was worth sacrificing the whole bill. We have some reforms, and I am committed and others are committed to continuing to work to reform the Corps, to streamline the Corps, to force them to stop wasting so much money and time. I am committed to do that in the future.

But right now, we have wetlands to save and levees to build. The Senator

from Oklahoma is exactly correct. This is a chart that shows the civil works as a percentage of the gross domestic product since 1929. There is a crisis in America. We are down below half a percentage point relative to gross domestic product. We are spending less today than we did in 1929.

I know nobody believes this information, but this is not a chart that came from MARY LANDRIEU'S office; this is a chart from the Corps of Engineers.

We can see in the runup to the wars, World War I and World War II, how this bolted up because we had to make some of these investments. But look at the precipitous slide, Mr. President. I say this because the Senator is correct. The National Chamber of Commerce—not a bastion of liberalism—is supporting this bill. The Manufacturers of America—not a bastion of liberalism—sent out a letter supporting this bill. Why? Because business cannot operate without ports and navigation and flood control. Agriculture cannot operate if every year their fields get flooded.

I don't know how to explain this anymore. This is not porkbarrel, runaway spending. This is critical investments, and it has been 7 years since this bill has passed.

Senator BOXER didn't run up a big tab. She has worked her heart out with Senator INHOFE to get a bill passed in 7 months that should have passed 7 years ago.

As to the argument from the good Senator from South Carolina—and I know somebody has to come to the floor and read talking points from some organization about this bill, but I wish to say something about South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, and Texas. This chart shows the hurricanes that have hit since 1955. I don't know how many more Katrinas, I don't know how many more Ritas, I don't know how many more Hugos we need. But these are the tracks of the storms. We have 300 million people who live in the United States. I am just going to take a wild guess that 50 percent of them live in the Northeast and the South because I know the interior West is very lightly populated, so I would imagine the gravity of the population is where we are looking now.

How many more storms have to hit before we pass a water bill? How many more homes have to be flooded? We lost 275,000 in Louisiana and Mississippi last year. Two years ago today, Rita slammed into south Louisiana and east Texas. I focus so much on my State, and, of course, I represent Louisiana, but I picked up the Houston Chronicle this morning, front page, big headline: People in south Texas still waiting for help from the Federal Government for homes destroyed 2 years ago.

This bill is not going to solve every problem. It is not going to build every levee. But we better get about raising this chart up a little bit or I don't know what our manufacturers and businesses are going to do. You can buy anything you want on the Internet, but every now and then you have to ship it. You can purchase it with a mouse click, but that product has to get on a ship, it has to get on a truck, it has to get on a barge. It has to go somewhere. If we don't start building levees and protecting our people from these storms—and Lord help us if there is another terrorist attack—I just don't know what we are going to do. So there is some urgency about this situation.

I will say in my final minutes that I hope the President will not veto this bill. I hope he will reconsider his position and look at the vote, the overwhelming vote in the House—and I think we are going to have an overwhelming vote in the Senate—and say: I thought about vetoing this bill, but I decided not to because the arguments have been good.

Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. So I hope the President will reconsider this number, the lowest investment since 1929. I hope he will look at the hurricane maps, and then I hope he will look at the land loss in Louisiana.

I would like to just end with this. We have lost more than twice the amount of land in just the last storm—these red dots represent significant land loss—that if an enemy came and took this land away from us, we would declare World War III. But it is not an enemy, it is ourselves.

So let us pass the WRDA bill.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their extraordinary leadership. There are many good reasons to pass this bill, and I hope we can get a good vote in just a few minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The bill that is before us today contains key Corps reform measures. It helps move America forward in addressing a lengthy backlog of critical water infrastructure projects, and it authorizes essential ecosystem restoration efforts.

This bill contains a number of provisions that are vital to Maryland—from Cumberland in western Maryland to the great cities of Baltimore and Washington and down to tiny Smith Island, which sits in the Chesapeake Bay.

Like so many other projects contained in this bill, the Cumberland effort will have multiple benefits. Increased public safety will come from the flood control provisions. The project also serves historic and community restoration efforts, including the rewatering of the National Park Service's Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the reconstruction of the historic turning basin there.

For the first time, the Army Corps will supplement the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to repair and improve wastewater treatment facilities to benefit the Chesapeake Bay. The Corps will be able to support sewage treatment upgrades such as the one at Blue Plains, which serves customers in the District of Columbia, northern Virginia, and Maryland.

The new EPA permit for Blue Plains requires that the nitrogen load from the plant be reduced by more than 4 million pounds annually. This will be the largest single nitrogen reduction project in the bay watershed in a decade.

The Port of Baltimore is one of the largest ports on the east coast. It is a vital engine of economic activity, contributing $2 billion to the State's economy and employing 18,000 Marylanders directly and tens of thousands more indirectly. WRDA 2007 extends the authorization for the 50-foot dredging of the Baltimore Harbor and Channels. The dredging that is authorized in this bill is essential to the economy of Baltimore and the entire region. But it produces millions of tons of dredge materials annually. In this bill, that sediment is being put to beneficial reuse. The Corps is literally rebuilding an island in the Chesapeake.

Poplar Island once was home to residents and hunting lodges. It had nearly vanished, the victim of rising sea level and unrelenting erosion. Since this project's authorization in 1996, however, the Corps has restored over 1,100 acres of remote island habitat. Poplar Island has risen, phoenix-like, from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Five hundred and seventy acres of upland habitat and an additional 570 acres of wetland habitat are being created.

Today, even as the project continues, the island is once again home to migratory shore birds, mammals, and reptiles. It even serves as a nesting area for Maryland's famous terrapins. The expansion of authorized in the bill will build upon this success. It will add an additional 575 acres, about half upland and half wetlands, to the restored island.

The Poplar Island expansion project authorized in this bill is important to the Port of Baltimore and to the ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay. But it is also a model for the Nation, showing us how Corps projects can be engines of economic success while at the same time serving beneficial ecological functions.

Smith Island is a remote inhabited island in the Chesapeake Bay on the Maryland-Virginia border. It has lost over 3,300 acres of wetlands, threatening the people who live there and degrading the Chesapeake Bay in the process. This bill authorizes the construction of 2 miles of breakwaters to protect over 2,100 acres of wetlands and underwater grass beds.

WRDA 2007 is unlike any earlier WRDA bill. It contains Corps reform measures, ecological restoration projects, and environmental infrastructure projects. These provisions represent the future of the Corps of Engineers. It is the reason I support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I believe that the passage of this bill is long overdue and I commend Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE for their efforts to pass this bill.

There are numerous projects in this bill that are important to each state. I would like to take a few moments and highlight what this bill means to New Mexico and our environment.

I would like to point out that the New Mexico related projects in this bill were included, at my request, in the WRDA bill we passed in 2006. So the content in this bill should not be a surprise to any of us and I hope that we can get this bill signed by the President quickly.

One of the most critical New Mexico projects contained in this year's WRDA bill involves New Mexico's Bosque. I have long envisioned the rehabilitation and restoration of the Bosque. In fact, I have introduced legislation in this Congress that would do just that. This bill will allow us to implement this vision that concerns this long neglected treasure of the Southwest.

The Albuquerque metropolitan area is the largest concentration of people in New Mexico. It is also the home to the irreplaceable riparian forest which runs through the heart of the city and surrounding towns that is the Bosque. It is the largest continuous cottonwood forest in the Southwest, and one of the last of its kind in the world.

Unfortunately, mismanagement, neglect, and the effects of upstream development have severely degraded the Bosque. As a result, public access is problematical and crucial habitat for scores of species is threatened.

Yet the Middle Rio Grande Bosque remains one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the Southwest. My goal is to restore the Bosque and create a space that is open and attractive to the public. I want to ensure that this extraordinary corridor of the Southwestern desert is preserved for generations to come—not only for generations of humans, but for the diverse plant and animal species that reside in the Bosque as well.

The rehabilitation of this ecosystem leads to greater protection for threatened and endangered species; it means more migratory birds, healthier habitat for fish, and greater numbers of towering cottonwood trees. This project can increase the quality of life for a city while assuring the health and stability of an entire ecosystem. Where trash is now strewn, paths and trails will run. Where jetty jacks and discarded rubble lie, cottonwoods will grow. The dead trees and underbrush that threaten devastating fire will be replaced by healthy groves of trees. Schoolchildren will be able to study and maybe catch sight of a bald eagle. The chance to help build a dynamic public space like this does not come around often, and I would like to see Congress embrace that chance on this occasion.

Having grown up along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, the Bosque is something I treasure, and I lament the degradation that has occurred. Because of this, I have been involved in Bosque restoration since 1991, and I commend the efforts of groups like the Bosque Coalition for the work they have done, and will continue to do, along the river.

Another project that is of great importance to New Mexico is the Southwest Valley Flood Control Project. New Mexico is a desert State prone to flash flooding during our monsoon season. In order to protect our cities we must take proactive steps to ensure that communities are prepared in the event of flooding. The Southwest Valley is one such area that is subject to flooding from rainfall runoff. Due to unfavorable topography, flood waters pond in low lying developed areas and cannot drain by gravity flow to the Rio Grande River. This project resolves this problem and calls for the construction of detention basins and a pumping station in Albuquerque for flood control in the Southwest Valley.

This legislation also has a significant impact on our environment. The Rio Grande Environmental Management Program authorizes the Corps to address environmental restoration and management on the Rio Grande and its tributaries through planning, design and construction of habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects and a long term river data acquisition and management program. This simple provision establishes a continuing authority for addressing environmental restoration and management on the Rio Grande and its tributaries within the state of New Mexico. This project consists of two main components. The first component consists of planning, design and construction of small habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects and the second component calls for a long term river data acquisition and management program. The impacts that this project will have on New Mexico will be tremendous.

Another program outlined in this year's WRDA bill provides authority to the Corps to study, adopt, and construct emergency streambank and shoreline protection works for protection of public highways and bridges, and other public works, and nonprofit public services such as churches, hospitals, and schools. This program provides authority for the Corps to carry out ecosystem restoration and protection projects if the project will improve environmental quality, is in the public interest, and is cost effective. This is a worthy initiative that will benefit the environment throughout the United States.

I urge my fellow Senators to help further enhance and protect our environment through passage of this legislation. I believe that each State stands to benefit from this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am proud to support this legislation today, which is so important for our Nation's water infrastructure. We need to repair and upgrade our waterways because so many of our businesses—and millions of jobs—depend on them. The bill would also help restore aquatic ecosystems and habitats, and it includes several provisions that are important for Michigan and the Great Lakes.

I wish to express my thanks to the chair and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senators BOXER and INHOFE, for their work on this bill. I also want to thank them for including a number of important provisions for the Great Lakes, one of the world's greatest natural resources. The Michigan and Great Lakes projects that I had requested, and which were included in the Senate bill, were retained in the conference report. Additionally, other important projects included in the House WRDA bill that I asked to be included in the conference report were retained.

I am also pleased that a provision that I added as an amendment to the Senate WRDA bill was retained in the conference report. This provision would expedite the operation and maintenance, including dredging, of the Great Lakes commercial navigation channels and infrastructure. This is a key provision because the Great Lakes are in the midst of a crisis: Freighters are getting stuck in shipping channels, other ships are carrying reduced loads, and some shipments have simply ceased altogether. This WRDA provision would work to address the very serious dredging backlog in the Great Lakes, which has been exacerbated by historically low water levels. I am also thankful that the bill includes a Sense of the Congress that states that the Corps' budget for dredging should be developed by using all available economic data rather than focusing on a single metric such as the amount of cargo being moved. I worked with the Senate bill managers to address this problem when WRDA was being debated on the Senate floor. At that time, the bill managers agreed to work with me to address this problem in the conference committee, and indeed they did. And for that, I am grateful.

Also of vital importance for the Great Lakes navigation system is a provision in the conference report that modifies the authorization to construct a second Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie, so that it will be constructed at full Federal expense for a total cost of $341,714,000. Two-thirds of the carrying capacity of the U.S. Great Lakes fleet is currently limited to the one large lock, the Poe lock. If the Poe lock should fail, shipping between Lake Superior and Lake Huron would essentially cease, and the steel industry, coal-reliant industries, and agricultural industries dependent on farm exports would be severely harmed. This authorization to waive the non-Federal cost-share requirement is an important step for ensuring the viability of the Great Lakes shipping infrastructure.

Another important provision for the health of the Great Lakes that was retained in the bill is a provision that authorizes the completion of the dispersal barrier to prevent invasive species, such as the Asian carp, from moving between the Mississippi River watershed and the Great Lakes. Further, the bill directs the Corps to operate both barriers I and II at full Federal expense and provides credit to those States that provided funds to begin construction of barrier II. The bill also directs the Corps to conduct a feasibility study on other ways to prevent the spread of invasives between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

The bill also retains a Senate WRDA provision that I have been working on for many years: the improvement of Michigan's water and sewage infrastructure. An authorization of $35 million is included in the WRDA conference report for a statewide environmental infrastructure project to correct combined sewer overflows, which is a major source of pollution in the Great Lakes and other waterbodies in Michigan. Combined sewer overflows carry both stormwater and sewage, and these can be discharged into streams, rivers, and lakes during periods of heavy rains. The $35 million provision in WRDA authorizes the Army Corps to partner with communities throughout Michigan to improve their sewer infrastructure. These improvements would not only benefit communities but would also help protect our precious water resources.

As the recent tragic collapse of a Minnesota bridge has made all too clear, the repair and modernization of this Nation's infrastructure needs to be a much higher priority. Just as roads and bridges need urgent repairs, we cannot wait further for authorizing important water projects that protect lives and property, support commerce and industry, and preserve and restore our environmental resources. We have waited 7 years for this bill. Now is the time to pass this bill, and it should not be held up by a Presidential veto, which I am confident the Congress would override.

While these important provisions, as well as several others that I have not mentioned, provide the authorization for addressing the dredging backlog in the Great Lakes, restoring the environmental integrity of our waters, and providing critical flood protection projects, the appropriations needed to make these provisions a reality are down the road. The next critical step is to appropriate the actual funding for these necessary projects.

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to express my strong opposition to the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The legislation being considered today far exceeds the already outrageous spending that was approved in both the House- and Senate-passed bills and would drastically increase the backlog of Army Corps of Engineers construction projects while doing nothing to modernize the system for funding these projects. I wonder, did we learn nothing from Hurricane Katrina?

In August of 2005, this Nation witnessed a horrible national disaster. When Hurricane Katrina hit, it brought with it destruction and tragedy beyond compare, more so than our Nation had seen in decades. Almost 2 years later, the gulf coast region is still trying to rebuild, and there is a long road ahead. I thought that we had learned a few lessons from this tragedy, but as our Nation continues to dedicate significant resources to the reconstruction effort, we are now being asked to quickly approve a conference report that only perpetuates the problems with both the funding and management of the Corps of Engineers.

During Senate consideration of this bill, Senator FEINGOLD offered an amendment that I was pleased to cosponsor that would have established a system to give clarity to the process used for funding Corps projects. Of course, that amendment was not adopted. It is unacceptable to me that this Congress isn't interested in how best to allocate our limited Corps resources or how taxpayer dollars would be used most effectively. My question is, What is wrong with having some concept of what our Nation's priorities are for waterworks projects? Why are we rejecting policies to help us identify where the greatest infrastructure needs are? Are people worried that showing the American people how their money is really being spent may result in their pet project being moved down the list for funding?

Today's practice, as illustrated again by this legislation, allows a Member of Congress to get a project authorized and funded without having any idea of how that project affects the overall infrastructure of our Nation's waterways—or whether it is even needed. There is already a $58 billion backlog in Corps projects, and the bill before us increases that backlog by an additional $23.2 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office. That is a 40-percent increase in the size of the existing backlog. Yet consider how much funding the Corps receives annually on average—$2 billion. Anyone can do the math and realize that we are perpetuating a significant problem. But that won't stop so many of my colleagues from congratulating themselves on passage of this bill—a bill the White House intends to veto.

I find it particularly ironic that just before the August recess this body claimed to be turning a new page and taking significant steps toward ending the process of secret earmarks and porkbarrel politics when it passed the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. This bill is beyond more of the same with over 900 projects, up from 600 projects in both the Senate and the House passed bills. As stated in a recent letter from the Director of OMB and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, ''Because the conference version of H.R. 1495 significantly exceeds the cost of either the House or Senate bill and contains other unacceptable provisions discussed below, the President will veto the bill.'' I applaud the President's vow to veto this bill.

While the bill before us today includes an ''independent'' review process in name, as Senator FEINGOLD and I have pushed for during debate on the last two Senate-passed bills, the conference report provision does not promote true independent review at all. Senator FEINGOLD and I championed language that would have established a process by which the planning and design of Corps projects could be reviewed by a panel of experts. As stated by an editorial in the Washington Post on August 6, 2007, entitled ''Watered Down,'' ''The Corps has a long history of overly rosy environmental and economic analysis of such projects, tailored to the political needs of its funders in Congress. Review of Corps projects by independent experts would deter such behavior, which threatens not only the federal budget but public safety. The Senate version of the legislation was very tough on this point.'' I will ask to have the editorial printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The legislation before us drastically dilutes the Senate-passed provision and gives the Corps undue influence over this panel. The review process will actually be housed within the Corps rather than outside the agency as the Senate bill required, and the Corps' Chief of Engineers is also given significant authority to decide the timing of review, the projects to be reviewed, and whether to implement a review panel's recommendations. This new system will only compound the problems with an agency that has brought about countless mismanaged and incredibly expensive construction and maintenance projects.

I believe this conference report is fundamentally flawed in many ways, not the least of which is its cost. As stated by the Tax Payers for Common Sense, ''In High School Civics students learn that conference committees are where lawmakers hash out the differences between House and Senate bills. But in the case of WRDA (H.R. 1495), the Corps of Engineers water projects bill, a $14 billion Senate bill met a $15 billion house and ballooned into a whopping $21 billion monster. . . . The ultimate price tag will be far higher because of numerous policy changes that are intended to shift costs from who benefits onto the federal taxpayer. For these reasons, the President did the right thing by promising to veto the bill if it gets to his desk. . . . Lawmakers should start over again and come back with a fiscally responsible bill that includes stronger policy reforms for independent peer review of costly, controversial, or critical projects, modernized economic guidance and creates a system to prioritize

limited federal funding. All these proposals will save taxpayers in the long term.''

Mr. President, it is time that we end this process of blind spending, throwing money at projects that may or may not benefit the larger good. It is time for us to take a post-Katrina look at the world and learn from our experiences over the past years instead of being content with business as usual. Shouldn't we be doing all that we can to reform the Corps and ensure that the most urgent projects are being funded and constructed? Or are we more content with needless earmarks—too often at the expense of projects that are of most need?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this conference report.

Mr. President, I ask to have the editorial to which I referred printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 6, 2007]

WATERED DOWN

ANOTHER PORK-LADEN BILL FOR THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTAINS MODEST CHECKS ON FUTURE PROJECTS

When Last we checked, the Water Resources Development Act was a $14 billion bill larded with pork-barrel projects. Now it is a $21 billion bill, having taken on still more pork in a House-Senate conference committee, and it appears headed for passage. One small factor in the bill's growth was the addition, during the closed-door conference, of tens of millions of dollars' worth of pet projects not previously debated in either chamber. Interestingly enough, Congress has also just passed an ethics bill that was arguably designed, in part, to prevent this sort of thing. But that legislation has not yet taken effect.

Of greater concern are the bill's provisions for independent review of proposed dams, levees and other projects to be built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has a long history of overly rosy environmental and economic analysis of such projects, tailored to the political needs of its funders in Congress. Review of Corps projects by independent experts would deter such behavior, which threatens not only the federal budget but public safety.

The Senate version of the legislation was very tough on this point. It would have required peer review of projects costing $40 million or more and permitted state governors, federal agencies and the general public to initiate mandatory peer reviews of other projects. It would have created a separate federal office to oversee the reviews, and it stated explicitly that federal courts did not have to defer to the Corps' reasoning when the agency decided to reject the findings of an independent panel. But, after negotiations between the Senate and the House, which favored a nearly toothless process, the final bill leaves out much of the Senate language: It raises the minimum dollar amount slightly, to $45 million, and says that only governors, not federal agencies or public interest groups, can call for mandatory peer review. The Corps can waive review of smaller projects where it sees no environmental issues. Inexplicably, the peer review law expires in seven years.

The good news is that the bill requires the Corps to assign the reviews to the respected National Academy of Sciences; it also wisely permits reviewers to consider a wide range of issues. President Bush has understandably threatened a veto because of the bill's cost, but there are more than enough votes to override. Imperfect as it is, this bill is likely to become law. Supporters of the compromise, such as Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, say that their tough oversight will make it work, a promise that will itself be tested in the months ahead.●

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, although I supported the Senate-passed version of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, I cannot support the conference version of WRDA because it significantly exceeds the costs of both the Senate and House-passed bills and includes many projects outside the Army Corps of Engineers' traditional responsibilities. I am not alone in my opposition. Indeed, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Assistant Secretary of the Army have indicated to Congress that the President will veto the bill in its current form.

The conference reported version of WRDA would cost approximately $21 billion, which is about $7 billion more than the Senate and House-passed versions. The $21 billion ''compromise'' reached in conference is not a fiscally responsible bill and, therefore, should not pass.

The conference version also inappropriately contains many projects outside the Corps' primary missions of navigation, flood damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration, such as environmental infrastructure projects. These environmental infrastructure projects divert vital resources away from the Corps' primary responsibilities, and add to the backlog of Corps projects. This is especially troubling since according to the Congressional Research Service the Corps' backlog of authorized projects is currently estimated to be 800 totaling nearly $38 billion to $60 billion.

I do recognize that the conference version of WRDA contains a number of important projects, some of which are located in my home state of Arizona. I would like to thank the Environment and Public Works Committee for including many of the projects I requested in the bill. It is important to note, however, that because of the backlog of Corps projects and concerns relating to WRDA's costs, I limited the requests I made. The same cannot be said for the conference version of WRDA. Consequently, I cannot support the bill in its current form.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. We have waited a long time for this bill, almost 7 years.

I thank Chairman BOXER and Ranking Member INHOFE for their hard work on this legislation and getting this bill through a conference and here before us today.

The bill authorizes navigation, ecosystem restoration, and flood and storm damage reduction projects all over the country. Most significantly for Illinois, the bill will increase lock capacity and improve the ecosystem of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

The Mississippi River is the backbone of our waterway transportation system and transports $12 billion worth of products each year, including over 1 billion bushels of grain to ports around the world. This efficient river transportation is vital to Illinois. Shipping via barge keeps exports competitive and reduces transportation costs. That is good for producers and consumers. More than half of Illinois' annual corn crop and 75 percent of all U.S. soybean exports travel via the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

There are huge cost and environmental benefits to shipping by barge as well. Barges operate at 10 percent of the cost of trucks and 40 percent of the cost of trains. They release much less carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, and hydrocarbons, and use much less fuel to operate.

But the system of locks and dams along the Upper Mississippi that make travel possible are in desperate need of modernization. The current system was built 70 years ago and needs to be updated to account for modern barging. Many of the older locks are only 600 feet in length, while most current barge tows using the waterway are twice as long. That means these goods take twice as long to get down river and into the marketplace. The conference report before us today authorizes replacing and upgrading many of the locks and dams along the Mississippi.

The legislation authorizes $2.2 billion for replacing and upgrading locks and dams and another $1.7 billion for ecosystem restoration along the river.

As we have seen in the tragedy that occurred along Minnesota's 35W Bridge, our country's infrastructure is aging and overburdened.

The projects included in the bill are sorely needed to shore up our waterway system, a vital component of our national infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the President has threatened to veto the WRDA bill. This bill is years overdue, and a veto by this Administration will mean yet another delay for important projects in Illinois and across the country.

The WRDA conference report passed the House this August by a vote of 380–40. And when the Senate originally considered the bill earlier this year, there were only four dissenting votes.

The bill will be sent to the President with broad bipartisan support from both the House and the Senate, and he should reconsider his threat to veto this bill.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my friend yield just on the time issue?

It is my understanding that Senator FEINGOLD has yielded us 20 minutes, so

I ask unanimous consent that Senator INHOFE get an additional 10 minutes and I get an additional 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me say to my good friend from Louisiana that I do agree with her. I hope the President doesn't veto this bill, but whether he does or doesn't, it won't make any difference. The outcome is going to be the same. We are going to have this bill. But let me give him the assurance that the place to start using his veto is when we start spending money in places we shouldn't spend money and not on this authorization.

I am going to make sure everybody understands, even though I have made a number of statements here in support of this authorization bill, it doesn't mean I am going to support everything on it. There will be things, when it comes up to appropriations time, that I will be down here leading the opposition and asking the President to veto some of these things. But you have to have discipline in some way. There has to be some kind of a guideline, some kind of criteria used.

Let me for a minute talk parochially about my State of Oklahoma. These are things that are in here for my State but things that should be in here. These are things the Government should be doing.

Lake Arcadia is a good example. The city of Edmond is the fastest growing city in Oklahoma. Because of a set of circumstances, they were being billed and have been billed for years now for water they were not even using. All that is corrected in here. In the event this bill should not pass, those people of the city of Edmond, OK, are going to have to come up with money to pay for something they never got.

Lake Texoma—the same situation. The Red River Chloride Control Project in this bill clarifies the operation and maintenance of Oklahoma chloride control projects at the Red River. This is critically important to our farmers in southern Oklahoma.

We have Ottawa County's Tar Creek. The most devastating Superfund site in America that has been addressed now for 25, 26 years is Tar Creek in northern Oklahoma, which goes into southern Kansas, and nothing has been done. We have spent millions and millions of dollars, until 4½ years ago, when I became chairman of this committee, with the help of the Democrats, Senator BOXER included, we were able to actually get in there and do something. We have some of the projects that are necessary to ultimately take care of that devastating thing in northern Oklahoma.

Now, I spent several years—three terms—being mayor of a major city in Oklahoma—Tulsa, OK. In Tulsa, OK, one of the biggest problems we had—and I daresay if you were to talk to any mayor in America they would say the same thing—the biggest problem in my city was not prostitution or crime in the streets; it was unfunded mandates. So we had the Federal Government coming along telling us what to do and mandating that certain things be done, and some of my poorer communities in Oklahoma were just not able to do it. Let me just give a couple of examples.

All of these towns and cities in Oklahoma I have been in and I have seen different things the Federal Government has come in and told them to do and not funded them. They are projects in Ada, Norman, Wilburton, Weatherford, Bethany, Woodward, Langley, Durant, Midwest City—that project in Midwest City is a water infrastructure type of project—Ardmore, Guymon, OK, out in the panhandle. I was out there during the last recess, and they were having a very serious problem with wastewater treatment. This would resolve that problem. Altus, OK; Chickasha, OK; Goodwell, OK; Bartlesville, Konawa, Mustang, and Alva. And when you stop and you think about all these things, these are things that—it should not be their responsibility. They do not have the capability of doing it. They are all things that came from the Federal government. Here I am, the No. 1 most conservative Member, saying Government does have a function. The major function I have always said is defending America and its infrastructure.

Let me mention a couple of things, if I could, Madam President.

I have a letter here from the Department of the Army, the Assistant Secretary of Civil Works, which is the Corps of Engineers, and they say the Corps already has an enormous backlog of ongoing projects that will require future appropriations of some $38 billion. Well, I use that in my argument as to why this is necessary. There is a reason for the backlog. At the time, they were authorized, but then circumstances changed. Some of these projects don't need to be done and will never be done.

By the way, when you talk about the amount of money that is going to be authorized, you don't know, first of all, how much of that $21 billion or $23 billion—maybe half of it—will ultimately be spent. We don't know. Some may be spent next year, some 10 years from now. It is just authorizing, just saying that at this snapshot in time, these are things which need to be done in America, these are legitimate, these meet the criteria. So that argument is no good.

He says that adding excessive new authorizations to this backlog is unaffordable and unnecessary. This sentence implies it is inadvisable to authorize new projects until all current authorized projects are completed, and nothing could be further from the truth. Certainly providing adequate hurricane protection in New Orleans is a higher priority than some of the already authorized projects, but we didn't know it at the time these were authorized. That is why this is important.

It said in this letter that the bill will include numerous authorizations that are outside of and inappropriate for the mission of the Corps of Engineers, and so forth. Well, the conference report does not include authorization of surface transportation projects for the Corps of Engineers. That isn't something we do.

So you look at the arguments they have, and it gets right back to the argument that the attack here, as I said, going all the way back to 1816, is on the authorization process. The only discipline we have in spending in this body is to have an authorization process.

Again, I will repeat, there is going to be some of these that are authorized that I would feel in my heart should not be appropriated, and I will fight against their appropriation. That is where the battle should be fought, and I think it is going to be.

I don't want to question anyone's sincerity in their opposition, but I think there are a lot of people who will go home and have a press release saying: I voted against spending some $23 billion. Nothing could be further from the truth. You oppose the authorization system and you oppose discipline in spending.

Madam President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, could you tell us how much time remains between Senator INHOFE and myself?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has 6 minutes, and the Senator from California has 13 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, let me say as we wind down that I think this committee, of which I am so proud to be the chairman, and I am so pleased to work with Senator INHOFE on these infrastructure issues, has done its work. I think we have done our job.

Now, of course, you can always find something that somebody doesn't like in a bill, but the fact is, as Senator INHOFE explained with a most instructive set of charts—and I thank him so much for going back through the history of the difference between appropriations and authorizations—this is an important step and a necessary step in the process but by no means the last step.

He talked about the appropriations process, and I talked about the process now that Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MCCAIN got added to this bill. Although they are still not happy with everything we have done, it creates an independent review. So we will have independent review, we will have appropriations. Therefore, this is a very necessary first step after these projects have come up really from our constituents, from our homeowners, from our city councils, from our boards of supervisors, from our mayors and governors, et cetera. So I believe we have put together a bill that meets our communities' needs, and I think we have done it in the very best way we can. We have complied with the new ethics rules.

By the way, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated today from Majority Leader REID and the Rules Committee chair, Senator FEINSTEIN, replying to Senator DEMINT on the issue of whether the Senate rule XLIV point of order applies to authorization bills.

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

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2007.

Sen. JIM DEMINT,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DEMINT: Thank you for your letter last Thursday regarding the earmark reform provisions in Public Law 110–81, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. This law, which passed the House by a vote of 411–8 and the Senate by a vote of 83–14, has been hailed by independent congressional reform advocates as ''far-reaching reform'' and ''landmark legislation.'' According to Democracy 21 President Fred Wertheimer, ''this Congress has passed fundamental government integrity reforms to respond to the worst congressional corruption scandals in thirty years.''

The new law (and procedures adopted by Senate committees in anticipation of the law's enactment) has already improved public awareness of earmarking activity—activity that had been obscured from public view even as the number of earmarks exploded during Republican control of Congress over the last decade. For the first time, earmarks and the identity of their sponsors are fully disclosed on the Internet before legislation comes to the Senate floor, and there is a meaningful process to curb the inclusion of dead-of-night spending in conference reports.

Your letter of September 20 challenges an anticipated ruling by the Senate Parliamentarian regarding the scope of the new point of order in Rule XLIV. But you fail to acknowledge that the ruling you now claim to be ''saddened'' by is compelled by key definitions in two amendments you sponsored during Senate floor debate last January, both of which were incorporated into the final bill essentially word-for-word. Further, the anticipated ruling is grounded on sound policy reasons involving the distinction between mere authorizations and actual spending provisions—a distinction that you and Senator Coburn openly discussed during floor debate on your amendments.

At the outset, we note that many of the new rules in Pub. L. 110–81 apply to authorization bills as well as spending bills. For example, the newly strengthened Rule XXVIII, which permits ''surgical'' points of order against out-of-scope matter in a conference report, applies to all types of conference reports, including authorizing bills and appropriations bills. The Rule XXVIII point of order maintains the longstanding definition of out-of-scope matter.

Similarly, the disclosure requirements in new Rule XLIV apply to legislative items that merely authorize spending, as well as those that actually spend money. Moreover, disclosure is required for items in committee reports as well as in legislative text. Information about such items, including the identity of the members who sponsored them, must be posted on a public Internet website 48 hours before a bill is considered on the Senate floor.

The new point of order in Rule XLIV, however, applies to actual spending rather than to mere authorizations. This new point of order is extraordinary because, for the first time, Senate rules prohibit conferees from including in a conference report matter plainly within the scope of the conference. The anticipated interpretation by the Parliamentarian is compelled by the plain language of amendments that you yourself sponsored during Senate debate on the ethics bill.

Amendment No. 11, which you successfully offered and the relevant part of which was included word-for-word in the final law, requires public disclosure not only of certain items ''providing'' funding but also items ''authorizing or recommending'' funding. Thus, the explicit language requires disclosure of items in appropriations bills, authorizing bills, and even report language accompanying bills.

But Amendment No. 98, which you co-sponsored with Senators Ensign and McCain and which was adopted by unanimous consent, contains a completely different definition of items that would be subject to a point of order if included in a conference report. This definition, unlike the definition in Amendment No. 11, makes no reference to authorizations; instead, it describes an item ''containing a specific level of funding for any specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity, when no such specific funding was provided for'' in either the House or Senate bill. Further, a provision in that amendment made clear that it only applied to appropriations conference reports—if a point of order was sustained, ''any modification of total amounts appropriated necessary to reflect the deletion of the matter struck from the conference report shall be made'' (emphasis added). The definition in Amendment No. 98 was incorporated essentially word-for-word into Public Law 110–81.

The inclusion of the word ''authorizing'' in Amendment No. 11 and the absence of that word—along with the trigger of ''specific funding'' and reference to ''amounts appropriated''—in Amendment No. 98 compel the Parliamentarian's ruling that authorizations are subject to disclosure but not subject to the new point of order in Rule XLIV. An authorization bill does not contain ''specific funding'' and it does not ''appropriate'' any amounts; it is merely permission for possible funding in the future. An analysis by the Congressional Research Service confirms this interpretation:

> In summary . . . both the originally-passed rule (Section 102) and the new Rule XLIV, paragraph 8, would seem to apply to provisions providing appropriations and direct spending only, generally to provisions that provide some form of spending authority. Neither rule would seem to apply to provisions simply authorizing or reauthorizing a program, project, or activity, without providing any funding.

Memo from the Congressional Research Service to Majority Leader Reid, September 11, 2007.

The remarks of you and your co-sponsors during the Senate floor debate on S. 1 also reflect this understanding. In arguing for earmark reform you spoke about ''spending'' and ''appropriations'' bills. For example, you said: ''And if we put that money in an appropriations bill designated just for them, it is an earmark. That is a Federal earmark.'' (Cong. Rec. 8417, Jan. 11, 2007). You urged that Congress ''show the American people that we were going to spend their money in an honest way.'' (Id. at 8416). You said you were ''trying to let the American people know how we are spending their money.'' (Id. at S417). And you made the point that ''in the appropriations bills there were 12,852 earmarks.'' (Id. at S426). (Emphases added in each case.)

In your floor colloquy with Senator Coburn, he repeatedly emphasized that your shared concern was with ''appropriations bills'' and ''spending.'' (See id. at 425–427). In fact, Senator Coburn was very explicit in identifying the difference between an authorizing bill and an appropriations bill and stated flatly: ''you don't have an earmark if it is authorized'' (Id. at S42); ''Items authorized are not earmarks'' (Id. at S427).

Similarly, in Senator Ensign and McCain's comments regarding Amendment No. 98, they spoke about federal spending and appropriations bills, not authorizing bills—''We should scrutinize how Federal dollars are spent''; ''We must ensure that taxpayers'' dollars are being spent wisely''; ''The growth in earmarked funding in appropriations bills during the past 12 years has been staggering.'' (Id. at S 741, emphases added). Nothing in the floor debate on S. 1 reflects an intent to subject authorizing language in conference reports to the point of order under Rule XLIV. Quite the opposite—the plain language of the amendments and the floor debate on earmarks was focused on spending and appropriations bills. The sentiments you now express simply do not square with relevant legislative history.

There are sound policy reasons for the distinction between authorizations and spending provisions under Rule XLIV. The availability of a surgical point of order against a conference report represents an exception to the long-standing parliamentary principle that a conference report may not be amended. Since conference reports must be adopted in identical form by both houses of Congress, endless amendment of conference reports would disrupt the orderly resolution of legislative disagreements. In order to instill needed discipline in the legislative process, the new law creates two exceptions to that principle: the surgical point of order against out-of-scope material under Rule XXVIII and the point of order against new spending items in conference reports under Rule XLIV. But extension of the Rule XLIV point of order to authorizing language in conference reports is unwarranted and would thwart finality in the legislative process.

Stronger safeguards are appropriate when Congress actually spends taxpayer money, whether in appropriations bills or in other bills which directly affect the federal budget. But when Congress passes an authorizing bill, it is simply expressing a goal. For instance, spending for disadvantaged students under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act was authorized at $25 billion in FY07, but only $12.8 billion in funding was actually appropriated. The pending Water Resources Development bill authorizes billions of dollars for water projects, but the actual funding of those projects will occur through the appropriations process. In fact, tens of billions of dollars worth of water resources projects have been authorized over the years, but have not yet been funded through an appropriations bill. Each of the spending decisions in the appropriations bills will be subject to the discipline that the new Senate rules impose on such bills and may be challenged during consideration of those bills.

When earmark abuse occurs, it involves the unjustified use of taxpayer money—not the setting of authorization levels. It is appropriate to require full disclosure of all items that involve specific member-requested projects, including authorizations, but only those items that actually spend taxpayer money should be subject to the extraordinary procedure of allowing a point of order to strike a provision that is within the scope of conference from a conference report.

Despite your ongoing campaign to discredit the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, we remain confident its passage was a major accomplishment. 83 Senators and 411 House members voted for the

final bill because they recognized it for what it is: the most sweeping ethics reforms in years and a huge step forward toward restoring the confidence of the American people in their government.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID,
Senate, Majority Leader.
DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chair, Senate Rules Committee.

Mrs. BOXER. So, Madam President, we have complied in full with the Ethics Committee, and we worked with the Parliamentarian every step of the way to make sure we were in total concert with that new law because we are respectful of it. We have letters from every Senator. We have a transparent process here. Everyone who asked for a project put their name on the line, and we made sure there was no pecuniary interest of a Member or their family.

So this is an important day for our country. We have all said this in different ways, but we are authorizing projects our communities need to help protect millions of people in our Nation from catastrophic flooding. It also will help restore the great wetlands, estuaries, and rivers of our Nation, places where wildlife thrive and that our families enjoy today. We want to make sure they enjoy them in the future—the hunting, the fishing, the boating, the camping, the outdoor industries.

By the way, those outdoor industries are a very important part of our economy. We call it the recreation economy. Without these projects, they simply won't be able to thrive.

WRDA makes other important contributions. It authorizes projects for our communities that they need to increase their capacity at their ports, to make shipping easier, safer, and more efficient. It literally keeps America's economy moving. You cannot have a great country if you don't keep up with the infrastructure needs. We saw what happened when a bridge collapses, and we are dealing with that in the committee as well.

Look what happens if we don't keep up with our water projects. We are not going to be able to move our ships. I know there are, for example, in California so many ports, but in many cases a lot of silt builds up and they can't move those ships through. So we need to do that. These are our gateways to the world. Our manufactured goods, such as computer chips, agricultural goods, grains, wines, and fruits, pass through our ports and harbors to be sold around the world. We have $5.5 billion worth of goods passing through our ports each day and more than 2.5 billion tons of trade moving through our ports each year. Colleagues, that volume is expected to double over the next 15 years.

That is why we say to this President: Please, please sign this bill. Why do we have to fight over every single thing? The fact is, you can't have a great economy, the greatest economy in the world, if we can't keep our goods moving. And we need to create thousands of new jobs right here in America. The port economy is responsible for approximately 5 million jobs—and ''jobs'' is your middle name, Madam President. So this bill will keep jobs being created and keep goods moving. WRDA is essential for goods movement.

I mentioned recreation. Maybe some people don't know this, but the Corps of Engineers is the largest provider of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 463 projects and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to State or local parks and recreation authorities or private interests. At these projects around the country, the Corps hosts 360 million visitors a year at its lakes, beaches, and other areas. One in ten Americans—25 million people—visits a Corps project at least once a year, and this generates 600,000 jobs related to all of this movement.

So, colleagues, we can all agree that public health and safety, economic growth, and environmental protection are important goals, and this bill helps to achieve them.

Finally, I wish to say a word of thanks to leader HARRY REID, who has just come onto the floor to make a statement of his own. I know Senator INHOFE and I spoke to Senator REID many, many times, and I know it is difficult for him because, just so the public understands, everyone who gets a bill out of his or her committee goes right to the majority leader to beg for time.

He made a commitment to me. He told me, and I remember it: When the Jewish holidays are completed, we will turn to WRDA. And that is what he did. He is a man of his word. This is so very important for the country.

Finally, let me thank the staff. First, the Democratic staff: Bettina Poirier, Ken Kopocis, Jeff Rosato, Tyler Rushforth; EPW Republican staff: Andy Wheeler, Ruth Van Mark, Angie Giancarlo, Let Mon Lee—I have gotten to know these as family; also, the staff of Senator BAUCUS: Jo-Ellen Darcy and Paul Wilkins; and staff of Senator ISAKSON: Mike Quiello.

This has been not an easy time. But when you get a bill that is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau, and the three biggest construction labor organizations—Laborers' International, International Union of Operating Engineers, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners—when you get all those, plus a host of local people, plus a host of water people, I think we are answering a need.

Again, I thank each and every member of the staff, my dear friend Senator INHOFE for being such a good fighter for this, and all the Members of the Senate. I know we are going to have a great vote.

It is my understanding Senator INHOFE may have a closing word prior to Senator REID speaking, so I yield my time.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my understanding I do have more time left than I will take. A quick word. I had a communication from my wife that she thought I was getting a little emotional about this, so let me end on a very positive note and say, yes, I have a presentation I make to groups, to conservative groups, talking about the history of authorizations since 1816. I gave an abbreviated edition a few minutes ago.

It is so frustrating to me to see people saying, if for some reason—it isn't going to happen. This is going to pass by a huge margin. If the President vetoes, he knows it will be overridden. But if for some reason this didn't pass, we would be right back where we were in 2002, 2004, 2006, and we would be having appropriators out there without any kind of discipline or any kind of process to go through in making those determinations.

I think it would be the wrong thing to do.

Lastly—I didn't mention this—in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas, we had quite a number of floods. If it had not been for what the Corps of Engineers had already done that was previously authorized and then later on was appropriated, it would have cost us, they now say, $5.4 billion more in damages than it did.

I hope the good conservatives will look at this and realize we have to have authorization in the process.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader.

Mr. REID. This will be the first and last vote today.

Madam President, I have been chairman of this committee on two separate occasions, the Environment and Public Works Committee. This is a masterful piece of legislation that was put together by the two managers of this bill; the chairman, Senator BOXER, ranking member Senator INHOFE. They have been in reverse rolls. Senator INHOFE was chairman of this committee.

People complain about the Senate not working together on a bipartisan basis and perhaps that is true on a lot of occasions. But there are many occasions where we need to look at the glass being half full rather than being half empty, and here is an example of the glass being half full. This is a fine piece of legislation that is being pushed by two Senators with ideological bents that are totally different. Senator BOXER has one political philosophy, Senator INHOFE has another. But that is how things should work around here.

Being a little bit personal about this, I think people recognize that Senator ENSIGN and I work very well together. We are not political soulmates, but we are friends and we work together. That is what has been accomplished. We don't have political soulmates, but they work together, giving and taking, and legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building. That is

what this is. Senator BOXER didn't get all she wanted. Senator INHOFE didn't get all he wanted. But they got something good for this country.

I want the record spread with the fact that this is an extremely important piece of legislation that literally could not have been accomplished—not only with what they did in committee—they got it passed on the floor—frankly, without the persistence they have had. Anytime I tried to turn away from it, they would head me in the right direction. I am glad we are here. This bill deserves a big vote. This is one of the finest pieces of legislation this body has passed all year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 347 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Akaka	Domenici	Menendez
Alexander	Dorgan	Mikulski
Barrasso	Durbin	Murkowski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murray
Bayh	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Hagel	Pryor
Bond	Harkin	Reed
Boxer	Hatch	Reid
Brown	Hutchison	Roberts
Bunning	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Byrd	Inouye	Salazar
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Snowe
Chambliss	Kohl	Specter
Clinton	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Stevens
Coleman	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Thune
Conrad	Lieberman	Vitter
Corker	Lincoln	Voinovich
Cornyn	Lott	Warner
Craig	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	Martinez	Whitehouse
Dole	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—12

Allard	Ensign	Kyl
Burr	Enzi	McCaskill
Coburn	Feingold	Sessions
DeMint	Gregg	Sununu

NOT VOTING—7

Biden	Kerry	Smith
Brownback	McCain	
Dodd	Obama	

The conference report was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as we conclude this historic vote, I thank colleagues on both sides of the aisle and briefly will put a few names into the RECORD. I know we are moving to another bill. I wish to thank Senator BOXER, Senator INHOFE, and Senator REID, for living up to his commitment.

For the RECORD, there were several people on my staff who worked so hard over the last 7 years: Herman ''Bubba'' Gesser, Allen Richey, Paul Rainwater, Kathleen Strottman, Jason Matthews, Jason Schendle, Stephanie Leger, Robert Bailey, Jennifer Lancaster, Tanner Jackson, Mark Tiner, Lauren Jardell, Elaine Kimbrell and Lucia Marker-Moore.

That is how long this bill has been going on. I have literally had 12 people in and out of the Projects Department working on this bill.

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

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from the vote today on the conference report of the Water Resources Development Act. Had I been present, I would have supported the conference report because it authorizes a number of essential flood control, navigation and ecosystem projects in Massachusetts and around the Nation. We have a responsibility to safeguard our environment, and this legislation will help ensure that future generations will be able to take full advantage of all that nature offers in Massachusetts.

The conference report directs the Army Corps of Engineers to study the Gateway region of Lawrence to determine whether to fill abandoned channels along the Merrimack and Spicket Rivers. Filling the channels will allow for the site to be redeveloped safely and stop chemical leakage into the Merrimack River. It also requires the Army Corps to conduct a navigation study of the Merrimack River in Haverhill to determine whether the agency should proceed with dredging to improve navigation.

The conference report modifies the coordinates of the Federal navigation channels in the Mystic River in Medford and the Island End River in Chelsea. The modifications will support waterfront development by increasing access to the channels.

It also directs the Army Corps of Engineers to study Woods Hole, the East Basin of Cape Cod Canal in Sandwich, and Oak Bluffs Harbor to determine whether the Army Corps should proceed with dredging in those areas to improve navigation. It modifies the coordinates of the federal navigation channels in Chatham's Aunt Lydia's Cove and Falmouth Harbor. These modifications will support waterfront development by increasing access to the channels.

An earlier Army Corps of Engineers restoration plan for Milford Pond recommends that the pond be dredged. The conference report authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to assist the community in removing the excess sediment.

Finally, the conference report directs the Army Corps to prepare an environmental restoration report on Mill Pond in Littleton. This report is an essential step before the Army Corps can assist the community in removing excess sediment and restoring the pond.

Much good will come from the provisions I have described here, all of which I worked to include in the final version of the Water Resources Development Act. However, we must recognize that our work to improve Corps of Engineers project planning is not done. Corps project planning must account for climate change, and Corps projects should use nonstructural approaches whenever practicable to help protect the natural systems that can buffer the increased floods, storms, storm surges, and droughts that we will see as the Earth's temperature continues to rise. The safety and well-being of communities across the country are at stake.

Many of my colleagues have already expressed their support for this important change. In May of this year, 51 Senators voted for a bipartisan climate change amendment to the Water Resources Development Act that I offered along with Senators COLLINS, FEINGOLD, SANDERS, CARPER, REED, BIDEN, WHITEHOUSE, CANTWELL, SNOWE and NELSON. Unfortunately, we needed 60 votes to sustain the amendment.

I remain deeply committed to ensuring that the Corps, and all of our federal agencies, plan for the future climate that we know will be upon us, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

It is clear that climate change is real and that its affects must be factored into our public policy. It is equally clear that climate change will have very significant consequences for the safety and welfare of the American people, and people across the globe.

The basic facts are these: At both poles and in nearly all points in between, the temperature of the Earth's surface is heating up at a frightening and potentially catastrophic rate. Temperatures have already increased about .8 degrees Centigrade, about 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Even if we could stop all greenhouse gas emissions

today, the current levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere almost certainly will produce additional temperature increases. Realistic projections of future warming range from 2 to 11.5° F.

These are the findings of scientists and governments from across the globe, as set forth in the most recent report of the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. That report was written by some 600 scientists and reviewed by 600 experts. It was then edited by officials from 154 governments. The IPCC report concludes that it is ''unequivocal that Earth's climate is warming as it is now evident from the observations of increases in global averages of air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snows and ice, and rising global mean sea level.''

Scientists expect that the earth's increased temperatures will cause an increase in extreme weather events, including more powerful storms, more frequent floods, and extended droughts. These changes threaten the health and safety of individuals and communities around the globe. These changes also pose a significant threat to the economy, and will put added pressure on water resources, increasing competition among agricultural, municipal, industrial, and ecological uses.

The United States is extremely vulnerable to these threats. Coastal communities and habitats, especially along the gulf and Atlantic coasts, will be stressed by increasing sea level and more intense storms, both of which can lead to greater storm surges and flooding. In the West, there will be more flooding in the winter and early spring followed by more water shortages during the summer. The Great Lakes and major river systems are expected to have lower water levels, exacerbating existing challenges for managing water quality, navigation, recreation, hydropower generation, and water transfers. The Southwestern United States is already in the midst of a drought that is projected to continue in the 21st century and may cause the area to transition to a more arid climate.

The Corps of Engineers stands on the front lines of all of these threats to our water resources. They are our first responders in the fight against global warming. Hurricane and flood protection for New Orleans, levees along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, levees in Sacramento, CA, and ports up and down our coasts, east and west are just a few of the many hundreds of Corps projects that will feel the strain, impact, and consequences of global climate change.

Corps planning currently does not take climate change into account. To the contrary, the Corps' current planning guidelines are explicitly based on the existence of a stable and unchanging climate, and on the assumption that flooding is not affected by climate trends or cycles. Continued reliance on these outdated guidelines is like driving down the highway at 80 miles an hour with blinders on. It is bound to lead to disaster.

The only climate change impact addressed by the Corps' guidelines is sea level rise. Under its internal planning guidelines, the Corps is supposed to take account of sea level rise when planning coastal projects. Those guidelines do not require the Corps to assess any other effects of global warming like increased hurricanes, storm surges, and flooding. The Corps' compliance even with its internal requirement to look at sea level rise is spotty at best. For example, in proposing a $133 million dredging project for Bolinas Lagoon in northern California, the Corps said it would not address sea level rise because it was too complicated to do so.

As importantly, despite a statutory mandate to consider non structural approaches to project planning, the Corps rarely recommends such approaches. This is true even where such approaches could provide the same or better project benefits. The Corps instead relies heavily on its traditional approaches of straight jacketing rivers with levees and floodwalls. These types of projects sever critical connections between rivers and their wetlands and floodplains, and lead to significant coastal and floodplain wetland losses. These approaches have left coastal communities, like New Orleans, far more vulnerable, and have exacerbated flood damages by inducing development in high risk, flood prone areas and by increasing downstream flooding.

Nonstructural approaches should be used whenever possible as they avoid damage to healthy rivers, streams, floodplains, and wetlands that can help buffer the increased storms and flooding that we are seeing as a result of climate change. These systems protect against flooding and storm surge by acting as natural sponges and basins that absorb flood waters and act as barriers between storm surges and homes, buildings, and people. Healthy streams and wetlands also help minimize the impacts of drought by recharging groundwater supplies and filtering pollutants from drinking water. Protecting these resources also provides a host of additional benefits, including providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and exceptional recreational opportunities.

Hurricane Katrina showed us the tragic consequences of an intense storm running head on into a badly degraded wetlands system and faulty Corps project planning. Coastal wetlands lost to Corps projects were not available to buffer the Hurricane's storm surge before it slammed into the city. One Corps project, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, funneled the storm surge into the heart of New Orleans. Corps projects in New Orleans also were not designed to address the increased sea level rise or land subsidence, and were not strong enough to withstand the type of storm that scientists say may become all too common.

I am committed to ensuring that future Corps planning does not repeat the mistakes of the past, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight as we consider future WRDA bills. Corps project planning must account for the realities of climate change, and protect the natural systems that can buffer its affects.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak with Senator FEINGOLD in morning business for 15 minutes.

I understand the other side is going to object to a unanimous consent request. I am going to ask if you would like me to do it upfront. Is that correct?

Mr. ENSIGN. Yes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I always oblige the Senator from Nevada. So if I have unanimous consent, that will be the order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENSIGN. Reserving the right to object, the Senator is going to ask for unanimous consent on the bill?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may finish. It is my understanding that the Senator has another commitment, and therefore I am happy to accommodate him in that regard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to ask, you are going to ask unanimous consent on H.R. 1255 also?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I would be happy to do that also.

Mr. BUNNING. I will wait then.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I will do them both first and then both Senators can object, and then Senator FEINGOLD and I will have some time to speak, if that is agreeable.

Mr. BUNNING. Thank you very much.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1255

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Calendar No. 213, H.R. 1255, Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007; that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BUNNING. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 223

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 96, S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic forms; that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENSIGN. Reserving the right to object, I have no objection to the underlying bill, but there is an issue that I had an amendment that I wish to add to the bill, if the Senator from California would agree. We have a problem going on in the Senate where there are outside groups that are filing ethics complaints and they are doing it for purely political reasons.

I think we could fix that, at least having transparency, to where if someone files an ethics complaint against a Senator from the outside, they would have to disclose their donors. So if this is being done purely for political reasons, then we would find that out, because we could see who the donors are. We need to protect the institution. We need to protect individual Senators from purely politically motivated ethics complaints that come against us that sometimes we will have to run up legal bills and all kinds of other things. If it is done purely for partisan reasons, we need to know that, and transparency is the best way to do it. If the Senator from California would modify her unanimous consent request to reflect and to add this portion, that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 96, S. 223, under the following limitations: that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, and that the only other amendment in order be an Ensign amendment related to transparency and disclosure, with 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form on the bill and the amendment to run concurrently, and that following the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Ensign amendment, and that the bill, as amended, then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate. Would the Senator modify her request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may, reserving the right to object, I wish to make a comment or two, if I might. This proposal would require all organizations that filed ethics complaints to publicly disclose any individual or entity that has donated $5,000 or more to that organization. If the good Senator from Nevada would be willing, I would be very willing to have this proposal considered in the Rules Committee in a prompt way. I would not like to hold up passing this commonsense simple filing bill, and I don't want to debate the merits at this time. This bill Senator ENSIGN is proposing is not germane to the basic bill before us. It would quite likely be a poison pill that would kill any chance of us getting the electronically filed bill enacted into law at this time.

I reiterate the offer to hear it in a prompt manner in the Rules Committee, but I must object to it at this time. I do so object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. ENSIGN. I object to the original unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard on that as well.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, on the original bill, which has just been objected to, twice in April, first on April 17 and then on April 26, I rose to ask unanimous consent that the Senate take up and pass S. 223. It was reported out by the Committee on Rules on March 28. In the first case Senator ALEXANDER objected on behalf of a Republican Senator. In the second, Senator BUNNING rose to object on behalf of the Republican side. But to this date, no Republican Senator has come forward to acknowledge placing a hold on this bill and say why the bill should not become law.

I wrote the minority leader on May 27 asking for his help in learning who was opposed to the bill and why. But no Members have yet come forward to identify themselves. This is a simple, direct bill with respect to transparency. It is an idea whose time has long come. Everybody else does it, and so it is very hard for me to understand who could oppose this and what their reason for opposing it could be.

At our hearing on March 14 and at our markup on March 28, it was clear there was no public opposition to this proposal. I believe it is time for the Senate to act. The bill is entitled Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act. It is sponsored by Senator FEINGOLD, who sits behind me in the Chamber, Senator COCHRAN, and 30 other Senators. It would require that Senate campaign finance reports be filed electronically rather than in paper format.

Currently House candidates, Presidential candidates, political action committees, and party committees are all required to file electronically. But Senators, Senate candidates, authorized campaign committees of Senators, and the Democratic and Republican Senate campaign committees are exempted. So we operate the Senate separately from everybody else.

Is this practical? The answer is no. It is cumbersome. Paper copies of disclosure reports are filed with the Senate Office of Public Records. They scan them. They make an electronic copy, and they send the copy to the FEC on a dedicated communications line. The FEC then prints the report, sends it to a vendor in Fredericksburg, VA, where the information is keyed in by hand and then transferred back to the FEC database at a cost of approximately $250,000 to the taxpayers. Of course, during this convoluted period, there is no transparency. Therefore, the reports are not available for public scrutiny.

It is long past time to bring the Senate into the modern era and to recognize that transparency is a part of a political process. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in ensuring timely access and disclosure of campaign finance activities to the public. The sponsor of this bill, Senator FEINGOLD, has joined me today to urge passage of this bill.

Thanks to the enactment of S. 1, there is a new reason why we are doing this today. Section 512 of S. 1 now requires Members placing a hold on a bill to come forward and identify themselves. To the best of my knowledge, no Member has yet used this section to break through the anonymity of a Senate hold. I believe it is appropriate that this provision be asserted now for the first time in connection with a bill that is all about transparency. I think it might be useful for me to read it, since it is now the law:

> Section 512 (a) IN GENERAL.—the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate or their designees shall recognize a notice of intent of a Senator who is a member of their caucus to object proceeding to a measure or matter only if the Senator (1) following the objection to a unanimous consent to proceeding to, and, or passage of, a measure or matter on their behalf, submits a notice of intent in writing to the appropriate leader or their designee; and (2) not later than 6 session days after submission under paragraph (1), submits for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and in the applicable calendar section described in subsection (b) the following notice: ''I, Senator [whoever it is] intend to object to proceeding to [name the bill], dated, for the following reasons.''

So if 6 Senate days from now the hold on this bill will become evident, it has been a rolling hold up until now, but now, after 6 days, we must know who it is.

I would believe if there are efforts to obfuscate this section of the law candidly, we should amend the law to prevent that from happening. This is a simple bill. Everybody is for it. Nobody wants to say who is against it. I think that should become apparent. I believe Senator FEINGOLD and I hope Senator COCHRAN, the cosponsor of the bill—and they have dozens of cosponsors—would agree.

I wish to acknowledge Senator FEINGOLD, if I may, and I yield the remainder of my time to him and also thank him for his leadership on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I, of course, thank the Senator from California, who is chair of the key committee on this bill, for her persistence in trying to get this bill through the Senate. We came to the floor twice this

spring to try to get consent to pass the Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act. Each time an objection was made on behalf of an unidentified Republican Senator. Yet no Senator had come to us to let us know what his or her objection to the bill is. The source of the objection apparently didn't want to be identified, but when the President signed the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act last week, as Senator FEINSTEIN pointed out, S. 1, fortunately, secret holds become a thing of the past, and I am very proud to have been deeply involved with passage of that legislation. So if an objection was lodged today, the objecting Senator would have had to come forward in 6 session days.

As far as I know, this was going to be the first test of the new rule on secret holds, and I was looking forward to learning who the real objector was, as the rule requires, if an objection was made on behalf of an unidentified Senator. But now it appears that the Senator from Nevada has actually identified himself as the objector to the bill, so we know what is going on here.

I believe the new provision under the new law is the reason this individual identified himself. I don't think that would have happened had it not been for the positive deterrent effect this new legislation has. Senator FEINSTEIN and I can cite this as the first time this was successfully forced in the case of a secret hold.

This underlying bill about disclosure, which I authored along with others, is completely noncontroversial. This simply put Senate campaigns under the same obligation to file their reports electronically that the House and Presidential campaigns have been forced to do for years. There is simply no reason that the information in Senate campaign finance reports should remain less accessible to the public than any other campaign finance reports. We are now at 41 bipartisan cosponsors. As the Senator from California pointed out, not a single concern about the bill was heard in the Rules Committee. The bill passed by voice vote, and no one has come to us with any concerns about it at all. So the time has come to get it done. The Senator from Nevada has made an alternative proposal to bring up the bill but to make an amendment in order. The amendment he wants to offer, however, has nothing to do with this bill. Indeed, it is a very controversial proposal to require groups that file ethics complaints to disclose their donors. I am sure the charitable and advocacy organizations will find this amendment quite controversial. It should be referred to the appropriate committee and given very searching study before it is offered on the floor. As the Senator from California said, it would certainly be a poison pill for the underlying bill, which thus far has had no public opposition whatsoever. So I am pleased the Senator from California objected. We are happy to make that objection very public.

I thank the chairman of the committee, the Senator from California. I will say again, it looks as though we made a little bit of progress. No longer is there a secret hold on the bill. Instead, the Senator from Nevada has made it plain he is the one holding up the bill by insisting on offering an unrelated amendment. That is unfortunate, but at least we know what we are dealing with. I hope in the days ahead we will be able to prevail on him to change his approach.

There are some bills where it is simply not appropriate to seek to add extraneous and controversial amendments. The amendment he has proposed is surely a poison pill for this bill, and we need to get this bill in place soon so these requirements of disclosure will apply during the 2008 election season.

Once again, I truly thank the Senator from California, and I look forward to getting this bill passed in the near future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

CHIP

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the Children's Health Insurance Program is a sound investment. It protects our children. It fosters their development. It helps them thrive. Children without health insurance are children taken to emergency rooms instead of doctors' offices. They are children whose care is delayed and delayed, until simple sickness becomes serious illness. They are children who need our attention, our compassion, our help.

The President has said he opposes this legislation because philosophically he thinks children should be covered by private insurance, not by the Children's Health Insurance Program. It does not matter whether these children in reality should be covered by private insurance. What matters is that these children are not covered by private insurance. Simply, they are not covered at all.

By lodging a veto threat against this bill, the President is saying that if private insurers have not made room for low-income children, then we should not make room for them either. That is not just faulty logic, it is faulty ethics. At the same time, the President argues that the Children's Health Insurance Program is too expensive.

We are suggesting—bipartisanly, in both Houses, with a program that started 10 years ago, with a Democratic President, Bill Clinton, a Republican House, a Republican Senate; a bipartisan initiative from 10 years ago—we are suggesting an increase of $7 billion a year over the next 5 years—$35 billion.

Contrast that with the war in Iraq. Mr. President, $7 billion a year, to cover 4 million uninsured children in this country, 75,000 in my State of Ohio—$7 billion a year—contrast that with $2.5 billion a week on the war in Iraq. Mr. President, $7 billion a year; $2.5 billion a week. Yet the President says that is too much to take care of 4 million children.

Uninsured children do not have the luxury of time. They cannot will themselves to remain healthy until individual insurance becomes more affordable or employer-sponsored coverage stops eroding or the President becomes more pragmatic. It is up to this body, this week, to take action.

In Ohio, the Demko family can tell you why they value the Children's Health Insurance Program. Emily Demko, 3 years old, has Down Syndrome. Because of her condition, she is automatically denied private health coverage because Down Syndrome is considered a preexisting condition.

Emily was covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program until March 31 of this year. Under the Children's Health Insurance Program, Emily was able to receive the therapy she needed to reach all of her developmental milestones in an age-appropriate way. But in March, Emily was cut off from this program because her father made $113 too much per month for the family to qualify.

Her father is self-employed. Her mother stays at home to care for her. Without health insurance, the bills for Emily's care total $3,700 per month, which, of course, is impossible for the Demkos to pay.

The Demkos' family income falls within the range of 250 and 300 percent of poverty. Emily has now been without health insurance for 6 months. Governor Strickland and the Republican legislature, bipartisanly, raised the threshold for the Children's Health Insurance Program in Ohio if the Feds go along, if the President signs our bill, to 300 percent of poverty—not for families living in the lap of luxury, but families such as the Demkos who have seen their daughter cut off from her health insurance because of a preexisting condition and falling out of eligibility because her father makes $100 too much per month.

So far, Emily is not regressing, but there is that possibility with Down Syndrome. Her parents cannot afford the insurance for themselves either. But more than anything, they want to see 3-year-old Emily covered. They worry about what will happen to her without the therapy she needs. She does not qualify for any other programs despite her disability.

I wish President Bush would talk to the Demko family, would keep them in mind as he considers whether to sign the Children's Health Insurance Program. I hope he wants to make life better, not harder, for this hard-working family and help Emily to thrive.

The Children's Health Insurance Program will expire September 30 unless

the President signs this bill. The House and Senate have found a compromise that works for both parties. The version we passed in the Senate passed with 68 votes, more than enough to override a veto. The compromise version is very much like the Senate version, even though some of us would like to see us do a bit more.

The compromise would cover 4 million American children, as I said, 75,000 of them living in my State of Ohio. These children did not choose to be uninsured. They are not uninsured because their families walked away from private insurance. Understand, most of the children in the Children's Health Insurance Program are sons and daughters of working parents, parents who are working hard, playing by the rules, simply not making enough money to buy private insurance, and their employers are not providing that insurance.

The fact is, private insurance too often steers clear of too many working families in Akron and Toledo and Zanesville and Marion and Lima and Marietta. These families are uninsured because they have no choice. Their children have no choice. But we have a choice. We can choose to help them. Let's do it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

NICS IMPROVEMENT ACT AND LEAHY-SCHUMER AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about H.R. 2640—it is called the NICS Improvement Act—and the Leahy-Schumer amendment.

I have worked long and hard on this bill. It has been a long time in coming. Now it is time to get it passed. To put it simply, the young man who was behind the great tragedy at Virginia Tech had a long history of mental illness but still fell through the cracks of our checking systems and bought guns and ammunition.

It is against the law for someone with serious mental illness to buy a gun. When the system fails, we are all less safe. This bill will get desperately needed resources to the States to help improve our Federal background check process. This bill will make it harder for someone to get lost in the system.

We cannot wait any longer before passing this commonsense piece of legislation. We cannot sit back and watch another Virginia Tech shooting happen without doing everything we can to stop it.

I have worked hard on this bill for more than a decade and the background check system to which it is added. In 2002, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY and I introduced legislation similar to what I am discussing today. It was in response to another senseless shooting. This one was at Our Lady of Peace Church, in our State, in Lynbrook, on Long Island. That was where someone with a long history of mental illness bought a gun, walked into Our Lady of Peace Church, killed Father Lawrence Penzes and a longtime parishioner, Eileen Tosner.

So back then we introduced a bill to get money to the States to help them get important records—on mental illness, convictions, things such as that—into the NICS system. But because of the climate of mistrust on all sides of the gun issue, that bill was never passed into law. I believe it passed the House once. I believe it passed the Senate once. But the two never hooked up.

Now, here we are again. It saddens me that it has taken this long—it has been years since Our Lady of Peace; it has been 5 months since Virginia Tech—to move the debate forward and try to get something done about safety on our streets and college campuses.

Now we are so close. The House has passed similar legislation that went through with the support of both the NRA and the Brady Campaign. That does not happen too often. As you know, when the NRA and I agree on an issue, there is a good chance some good can come of it.

We already have a comprehensive background check system, but since the system relies on up-to-date computer searches to produce fast results, it is only as good as the automated information the States provide. That is why the focus of the bill is to get more records into the system. So under the bill, States that opt into the system that do well will be rewarded with grants and financial incentives. States that do not will be punished.

We have modified that so smaller States that have more difficulty keeping the records because they have smaller budgets will not be penalized. Senator LEAHY correctly insisted that be done to protect his State of Vermont. But it affects smaller States as well. The amendments Senator LEAHY has suggested and been added to this bill, I believe, improve it without getting any of our delicately balanced coalition out of kilter in any way. So I thank Senator LEAHY for doing that.

Perhaps the most important thing I can say about this bill is it is all about public safety. It is all about enforcing the laws on the books. This is not—and this is important—is not a gun control bill. No lawful gun owners are going to have their guns taken away. Nobody who should be allowed to get a gun will have his or her rights restricted.

The bill targets only those records that are supposed to be in the system already—records that demonstrate whether someone is seriously mentally ill, a felon, or so on. What Virginia Tech showed us is when the background check system fails, the consequences can be terribly tragic.

Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY and I saw that in Long Island and, of course, the Nation saw it at Virginia Tech. Nothing can bring back the 33 young people who died last April, and we do not know if we can prevent another Virginia Tech from happening, but our bill will take a substantial step toward making the system better and keeping our streets and schools safer.

I yield the floor.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on Friday, September 21, on amendment No. 2898 to the Defense authorization bill. I have voted against similar measures in the past, and had I been available to vote on Friday, I would have again voted against this attempt to direct a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

The terms of this amendment would have required U.S. troops to begin leaving Iraq within 90 days of the Defense authorization bill's enactment and complete that withdrawal within 9 months. While I understand public frustration with the war, I believe a precipitous and arbitrary withdrawal mandated by Congress is not a wise solution to the situation in Iraq. I cannot support attempts to set an arbitrary deadline for withdrawing our forces from Iraq, which endangers our troops, our safety at home and the overall stability of Iraq and the Middle East.

I believe our military commanders should determine how and when our troops begin leaving Iraq based on conditions on the ground. General Petraeus announced this month that he would be able to begin withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq. I believe Congress should rely on the guidance and leadership of General Petraeus and our other commanders on the ground to determine how best to eventually bring our troops home from Iraq.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote: ''The time is always ripe to do right.''

This week, the time is ripe to do right by America's children.

Last Friday, my colleagues and I unveiled a strong, bicameral agreement to renew and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program.

CHIP covers kids whose parents don't qualify for Medicaid, but who cannot afford costly private insurance.

CHIP works to get health coverage to uninsured kids in America's working families.

The agreement we reached to renew CHIP will make sure that more than 6½ million children with health coverage today will keep that coverage.

The agreement we reached will make sure that millions more low-income, uninsured American children get a healthy start.

It is a good agreement. It is fiscally responsible. It has broad support across the Congress. And most importantly, it puts children first.

In August, 68 Senators voted for nearly the exact same $35 billion agreement to renew and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program. They

voted to reach millions more uninsured children in low-income, working families.

This week, Senators can stand up for kids again.

I know that there is pressure from the White House. The White House is asking Senators to turn away this time.

But the President is endangering children when he distorts what this bill does. The President is endangering children when he repeats his veto threats.

Moreover, the agreement does exactly what the President says it should.

The agreement will target the Children's Health Insurance Program toward the lowest-income eligible children. It will give States bonus funding for enrolling the poorest kids for health care. And it will reduce Federal funding for children in higher-income families.

The agreement will not raise the eligibility level for CHIP. That will still be for the administration and the States to decide. That is how the CHIP law was written in 1997, by a Republican-led Congress. We do not change that.

Our goal is to reach more of the low-income, uninsured children who are already eligible for CHIP today. Our goal is to keep the program for kids.

That is why our agreement will curb coverage of adults in CHIP.

It will improve the kids' coverage in so many ways, from outreach for minority communities to dental care for every child who enrolls.

In addition, a straight extension of CHIP at current funding, or at the President's cut-rate budget proposal, will cause thousands, even millions of children to lose their health coverage.

Many families would have no choice at all to get health care for their kids. They would have no way to pay the doctor. They would have no way to buy the medicine.

But CHIP can get kids in working families the doctor's visits and medicines that they need when they're sick. CHIP can get them the checkups that they need to stay well.

In 10 years, the Children's Health Insurance Program has reduced the number of low-income children living without health insurance by one-third.

And 82 percent of Americans want Congress to cover more low-income, uninsured kids with CHIP.

This week, Congress is heeding the call. This week, we will choose to do right by America's kids.

The President should look beyond politics. The President should look to the faces of America's uninsured children.

The President should see that the time is ripe for him to do right, as well.

I thank my colleagues, and urge their support for America's children this week.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT ROBB ROLFING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to SSG Robb Rolfing and his heroic service to our country. He was killed in action on June 30, 2007, by enemy small arms fire while on a mission near Baghdad. Robb was a member of the elite Green Berets as a special forces engineer to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Airborne, in Fort Carson, CO. Robb was on his second tour of duty when he was killed.

Robb Lura Rolfing was born on December 4, 1977, to Rex and Margie Rolfing in Sioux Falls, SD. He grew up admiring ''MacGyver,'' prompting him to start carrying duct tape everywhere he went.

Before Robb became a soldier, he attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, majored in physics and astronomy, and played soccer. During his time as captain on the Vassar soccer team, he took the team to Vassar's first ever NCAA tournament postseason playoff, in any sport, where he scored the winning goal in the first round of games. To further demonstrate his talent as a soccer player, he was named to the NSCAA/Adidas All-Region Team and the All–New York Team. A Vassar basketball coach told the Rolfing family that he would often see Robb practicing soccer out on the field by himself in the morning and after regular scheduled practices. The coach said, ''If I had 5 Robb's we would win every game because of the determination and focus he showed.'' After college, he went to work in field management at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, and then moved on to coach soccer at Currey College in Boston.

Robb's mom Margie says that she has started a list called ''Amazing Robb.'' This list is a compilation of stories, thoughts, and recollections that the family has gathered from family and friends of Robb. Margie recalls one particular moment when Robb's sister, Tiffany, was about to graduate from high school. The family thought that he was still overseas during his first tour, but he showed up at home wearing a blanket of Tiffany's college over his head just standing at the door. The only way Tiffany recognized it was Robb was because of his shoes—he had them duct taped because he refused to buy new shoes as the ones with duct tape were far too comfortable to throw away.

Robb always wanted something more out of the life he was given. After the events of September 11, 2001, Robb's calling to help serve his country was jolted into action and he joined the Army in January of 2003. He completed his basic training at Fort Benning, GA, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, KY. Shortly after returning from his first tour, he qualified and was accepted into the special forces unit where he became a Green Beret.

Robb's good will and service touched the lives of many people. Although his life was cut short, he continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country.

Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family of SSG Robb Rolfing. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2007 DAVIDSON FELLOWS AWARD

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great admiration that today I recognize some of the most intelligent, driven young minds in this country. I would like to acknowledge the 17 recipients of the 2007 Davidson Fellows Award, a scholarship awarded to exceptional students to assist them in furthering their education. These scholarships are given by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development to inspiring individuals under the age of 18 who have completed academically rigorous projects that demonstrate a potential to make a significant, positive contribution to society. This year's recipients achieved academic excellence in the areas of science, literature, mathematics, technology, and music. As I read through the accomplishments these young minds have achieved, I can assure you that this year's recipients are more than deserving of such an honor. I would like to take a few moments to describe what each recipient has accomplished.

Richard Alt II, a 17-year-old from Fredericksburg, VA, has compared three weather forecasting methods to formulate a brandnew forecasting method. He has done this through detailed interpretation and analysis of varying aspects of climatology. Through his findings, Richard has created a universal process that allows meteorologists to compile more accurate forecast data and help public officials prepare seasonal response plans for various weather patterns.

Another 17-year-old from Vienna, VA, Christina Beasley has explored human perception and beauty in her portfolio, ''An Experiment in Free Speech.'' This young lady has compared emotion in famous literary works to her own pieces of writing to reveal the tucked away beauty of common occurrences. She has realized through careful research and interpretation that a person must make the connection between emotion and rationality to fully understand the intricacies of the human mind.

Sixteen-year-old Nate Bottman of Seattle, WA has found an array of solutions to the Nonlinear Schrodinger Equation, NLS, that shows the pattern of waves in fluids and plasmas that have sharp boundaries and dissipation. Nate has developed a method of finding

solutions to integrable equations and has discovered that stationary solutions of the NLS are spectrally stable. His work will help in many areas of math and science, including but not limited to the study of Bose-Einstein condensates and plasma physics.

A young woman from Davis, CA, Alexandra Courtis, has developed an innovative method used in areas such as cancer research to track different biological functions via luminescent silicon nanorods and quantum dots. At just 17, she has developed a less expensive method of using sodium silicide and ammonium bromide that has made it possible to produce silicon nanoparticles on a larger scale. Alexandra's accomplishment is a significant advancement in targeting cancerous tumors and individual cells.

Billy Dorminy, a 15-year-old from McDonough, GA, has invented a secure method of message encryption using reduced redundancy representations of improper fractional bases. This new method of encryption takes up far less computer memory while also utilizing confusion and diffusion to keep a message hidden. Billy's method allows for the placement of a second undetectable encrypted message in the body of the first, opening the door for further advancement in the area of message encryption.

Another 15-year-old, Yale Fan, from Beaverton, OR, has furthered the binary quantum computational Deutsch-Jozsa and Grover algorithms to create multivalued logic problems. These two algorithms were among the first in the creation of a quantum computer. His work is relevant in many areas including the vision systems in computers, various economic issues, and aspects related to space, including transportation, scheduling, and manufacturing.

Madhavi Gavini, a 17-year-old from Starkville, MS, has developed an innovative method to restrict the augmentation of biofilm-forming pathogens. For example, Pseudomonas, a pathogen that is resistant to many drugs, produces a biofilm that protects it from antibiotics. This young woman's progress was done through the combination of traditional Indian medicine and molecular biology that will be used to treat millions dealing with Pseudomonas infections.

A 17-year-old from Bridgewater, NJ, Michael Harwick wrote a piece entitled ''Highways: The Road as Existence'' that utilized prose, poetry, and dialogue to depict relationships that oscillate between isolation and connection. Michael consistently astounds the reader with a unique voice filled with streams of symbolic and linguistic meaning. Through his choice of short dialog and extravagant descriptions of a visual world, he has shown the lack of dialog in a world filled with noise.

Todd Kramer, a 17-year-old from Port Jefferson, NY, produced a portfolio that followed his growth as a composer since he was 12 entitled ''Finding My Voice Through Music.'' He believes that each generation needs its musicians, composers, and performers that create artistic conventions that grow and mature with the times. This young man just graduated from the Juilliard Pre-College Division and is a student at the Perlman Music Program. He has performed in such prestigious places as Carnegie Hall in New York and the Kennedy Center right here in Washington, DC.

Fifteen-year-old Shannon Lee of Plano, TX, is another very talented musician who believes that music is a cornerstone of communication, which she has shown through her violin portfolio, ''Creating a Musical Bond.'' Shannon specifically enjoys keeping tradition alive by playing a variety of distinguished composers to captivate her audiences. She earned the silver medal at the Stulberg International String Competition, and she received a scholarship from the Texas Commission on the Arts, where she also performed as a soloist in the Dallas Symphony.

Danielle Lent, a 17-year-old from Cedarhurst, NY, has developed an innovative, cost-effective, and earth-friendly method of recycling plastics. Her process involves the exposure of plastic polymers to supercritical carbon dioxide, creating a plastic that has equal or superior properties in comparison to the original. Miss Lent's discovery has allowed for this entire process to occur without releasing harmful toxins while also reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

A seventeen-year-old young woman from Wesley Chapel, FL, Celeste Lipkes, has transfixed her readers by exploring themes of disease, discovery, and faith in, ''Room to Pace.'' Her portfolio includes the juxtaposition of poetry that is amusing, intense, uplifting, and downright enjoyable with personal essays on physical loss and the oddities of the human family, and finally critical essays analyzing other poetry. Through her work, Celeste wants to inspire her audience to take notice of the details of life.

Yuqing Meng, a 16-year-old from Madison, NJ, feels privileged to contribute to the art of classical music, which he has shown through his piano portfolio, ''Reviving Classical Music Through Individualism.'' When he was just 7 years old, Yuqing was one of the youngest candidates ever to be accepted to the Juilliard School Pre-College Division, where he later went on to win the Junior and Senior Concerto Competitions. In 2007, he also received the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist award.

Katherine Orazem, a 17-year-old from Ames, in my home State of Iowa, has written a collection of sonnets, short stories, and essays entitled ''After Elegies'' that delves into the human issue of death and examines those who have gone through loss. She looks at these issues from many perspectives, including the loss a widow must face, the denial of his wife's death by a husband, and the pain an apostate feels who has lost her faith. Through her work, we have come to understand the human condition and its variety of responses to death and loss.

A 15-year-old from Norristown, PA, Janet Song has created a urine test to detect the early signs of cancer. She has been able to isolate short circulatory DNA found in urine to identify tumor sites. Janet's new method has made cancer screening less unpleasant, less invasive, and cheaper than current methods.

Columbia, SC, native Graham Van Schaik has researched pyrethroids that are found in common household and garden pesticides. He even discovered that pyrethroids are used in over 30 commercial crops and have had the effect of cellular proliferation in breast cells, a sign of cancer and neurite retractions in neurons which is a sign of neurodegenerative disease.

Nora Xu, a 17-year-old from Naperville, IL, has developed a different method of determining the crystal structure of nanocrystalline superlattice thin films. Using a three dimensional model of the nanocrystalline superlattice, she found that x-ray scattering pattern intensities can be applied to molecules and atoms. Her work has potential in the area of optical and electron microscopes and the ability to deliver drugs to cancerous tumors.

Mr. President, these are 17 very talented, hard-working, motivated young men and women who are making advances in music, science, literature, mathematics, and technology for the betterment of society. I would like to thank all these young people for their willingness to seek out new horizons and make the world a better place. I would also like to personally thank the Davidson Institute for their support of these young individuals. In an ever-changing world, it is the young who show hope for the future. I can honestly say, after learning about every one of these kids, that I have great hope for the future.●

THE DEATH OF DR. ALVIN SMITH

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD an article on the death of Dr. Alvin Smith, who passed away last week at the age of 75. The son of sharecroppers, he went on to become a noted physician who worked throughout his life to increase access to the health care system, an issue that is near and dear to my heart. My condolences go out to his wife Ann, his three son, and his six grandchildren.

The article follows.

[From newsjournalonline.com, Sept. 19, 2007]

NOTED AREA PHYSICIAN DIES WITH FAMILY AT SIDE

(By Anne Geggis)

Dr. Alvin Smith devoted his life to saving the lives of his patients and curing the ills of the health-care system.

Smith, 75, died Tuesday morning at his Ormond Beach home. His family was at his side.

The son of Alabama sharecroppers overcame meager beginnings to become one of the most respected physicians in the area.

The 1952 Mainland High School graduate was perhaps best known to the community as the director of the Herbert D. Kerman Regional Oncology Center at Halifax Health Medical Center and as the owner of Angell & Phelps Chocolate Factory that his son, Alvin Jr., now runs.

In addition, he felt a strong pull toward changing the system so more people had access to medical care, serving as president of the Volusia County Medical Society and the Florida Medical Association.

Smith was a self-confessed truant who went to fifth grade for only one day and didn't come back to school for a year. He quit high school in 10th grade and finally graduated from Mainland at the age of 21. But then he went on to become the first college graduate in his family, earning a biology degree from the University of Florida before getting his doctorate from the University of Miami.

It was as president of the Florida Medical Association in the 1990s, however, that Smith achieved one of his most enduring accomplishments: convincing then-Gov. Lawton Chiles to form an autonomous state Department of Health. During that time, he also lobbied for legislation allowing the state of Florida to sue the tobacco industry to recover Medicaid costs.

''He wanted to make sure that no patient in Florida went without the best health care they needed, regardless of their ability to pay,'' said Dr. Carl ''Rick'' Lentz, also a past president of the Florida Medical Association and a Daytona Beach surgeon.

His voice choking, Lentz recalled how Smith recently handed him his Florida Medical Association president's pin because Lentz never got one during his term as president.

''He's a wonderful human being who's been a blessing to the whole world,'' Lentz said. ''There's not a patient who has been with him that doesn't love him. Anytime you call on Al, he's there for you.''

Former County Councilman, local talk show radio host and gadfly Big John recalled meeting Smith as an ''intern'' at Halifax Health Medical Center in which community members were invited to spend time with doctors to learn about the hospital's functions.

''He was a great guy—great personality,'' John said.

Smith's boyhood longing for chocolates he couldn't afford in the window at Angell & Phelps gave way to occasional indulgence. When the chocolate factory came up for sale, he bought it to make sure all his favorite recipes stayed the same.

Daytona Beach Mayor Glenn Ritchey served with him on the Halifax Community Health System Board.

''I have known him to be a great community servant, as well as a wonderful doctor who has meant so much to our area,'' Ritchey said. ''He'll be greatly missed.''

Smith served in the U.S. Army, retiring as a major, and from the U.S. Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel. He was active in civic organizations, ranging from the Boy Scouts to the People to Prevent Nuclear War. He served on boards including the United Way, Hospice of Volusia/Flagler and A Child's Place.

''Alvin's one of the really good guys,'' said John E. Evans, a former TV personality and spokesman for what was then called Halifax Community Health System.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Ann; three sons, Alvin Jr., Ormond Beach, and Chuck and Mike, both of Palm Coast; a sister, Ginny Little, Ormond Beach; and six grandchildren.

Viewing will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday at the social hall at Central Baptist Church, 142 Fairview Ave., Daytona Beach. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Central Baptist Church. A private military burial will be next week.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2881. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

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.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2881. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

H.J. Res. 43. A joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt (Rept. No. 110–184).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Select Committee on Intelligence. Donald M. Kerr, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2086. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend funding for 18 months for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KYL):

S. Res. 326. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 327. A resolution recognizing the 218th anniversary of the United States Marshals Service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. SUNUNU)):

S. Res. 328. A resolution condemning the assassination on September 19, 2007, of Antoine Ghanem, a member of the Parliament of Lebanon who opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 329. A resolution congratulating Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as it celebrates its 50th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to repeal the sunset on the reduction of capital gains rates for individuals and on the taxation of dividends of individuals at capital gains rates.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 958

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to establish an adolescent literacy program.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to reauthorize the National Writing Project.

S. 1465

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1465, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of certain medical mobility devices approved as class III medical devices.

S. 1627

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand the benefits for businesses operating in empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or renewal communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service.

S. 1743

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1743, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on contributions to funeral trusts.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to provide justice for victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1951, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program continue to have access to prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 2002

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain provisions applicable to real estate investment trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2020

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2020, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2010, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the ''Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007'', and for other purposes.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2044, a bill to provide procedures for the proper classification of employees and independent contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee.

S. 2071

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2071, a bill to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to delay for 6 months the requirement to use tamper-resistant prescription pads under the Medicaid program.

S. RES. 325

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 325, a resolution supporting efforts to increase childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research.

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2000 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2912

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2912 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2951

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2951 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2972

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2972 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2982

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2982 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2997

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2997 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3003

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3003 intended to be proposed to H. R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3010

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3010 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3017

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3017 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 326—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 326

Whereas the death of a loved one is a devastating experience, and the murder of a loved one is exceptionally difficult;

Whereas the friends and families of murder victims cope with grief through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals, and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system; and

Whereas the designation of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 25 of each year provides an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor the memories of murder victims and to recognize the impact on surviving family members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and

(2) recognizes the significant benefits offered by the organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims.

SENATE RESOLUTION 327—RECOGNIZING THE 218TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 327

Whereas the United States Marshals Service was formed as a result of the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789, and the first 13 United States Marshals were appointed by President George Washington with their primary mission being to support the Federal courts;

Whereas, in the early years, United States Marshals and Deputy United States Marshals executed warrants, distributed presidential proclamations, protected the president, registered enemy aliens in time of war, pursued counterfeiters, and helped conduct the national census, and later maintained law and order in the ''Wild West'', helped contain the uprising at Wounded Knee, kept the trains rolling during the Pullman Strike in 1894, and enforced the 18th Amendment during Prohibition;

Whereas, on November 14, 1960, 4 Deputy United States Marshals accompanied 6-year-old Ruby Bridges to her elementary school after a Federal judge ordered the desegregation of the New Orleans public school system, and, in 1962, when James Meredith sought to legally become the first Black person to attend the University of Mississippi, the duty of upholding the Federal law allowing him to do so fell upon the shoulders of 127 Deputy Marshals from all over the country who risked their lives to make his dream a reality;

Whereas Deputy United States Marshals assisted in restoring order after the Los Angeles riots in 1992, provided security to 18 airports in the hours and days following the attacks on September 11, 2001, played an instrumental role in the ''DC Sniper'' investigation, were deployed to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and provided security for the trials of Oklahoma bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh and Al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui;

Whereas, in August 2007, Deputy Marshals participated in the manhunt for fugitive Paul Devoe who was wanted for 5 murders in Texas and another in Pennsylvania, and who was apprehended in Shirley, New York, by the United States Marshals Service's New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force;

Whereas, over the past 218 years, the Marshals Service has grown and evolved into a modern law enforcement agency, still charged with protecting the Federal judiciary, but also with apprehending dangerous fugitives, conducting protective operations, ensuring the security of witnesses and their families, providing for the custody and transportation of Federal prisoners, managing the Federal Government's seized asset program, and conducting special operations as required by the Attorney General, and no other law enforcement agency has as many diverse missions and is as versatile;

Whereas over 200 United States Marshals, Deputy Marshals, and Special Deputy Marshals have given their lives in service to their Nation; and

Whereas, as the times have changed, the missions of the United States Marshals have changed, but the Marshals Service has answered the call to duty without exception: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the 5,000 members of the United States Marshals Service who every day carry out complex and life-threatening missions with integrity, skill, and valor on behalf of their Nation;

(2) commends United States Marshals Service Director John Clark for his service and leadership; and

(3) thanks the United States Marshals Service for its contributions as the agency celebrates its 218th anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2007, OF ANTOINE GHANEM, A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF LEBANON WHO OPPOSED SYRIAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON

Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. SUNUNU)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 328

Whereas Antoine Ghanem and at least 6 others were killed in a car-bomb attack in the Sin el-Fil suburb of Beirut on September 19, 2007;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem was a member of the Parliament of Lebanon from the Lebanese Kataeb Party representing the Baabda and Aley districts of Mount Lebanon;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem is the 6th member of the Parliament of Lebanon who had opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon to be assassinated since February 2005, including former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri, former Economy and Trade Minister Bassel Fleihan, Gebran Tueni, Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, and Walid Eido;

Whereas other prominent figures in Lebanon who have opposed Syrian interference in that country have also been assassinated in the same time period, including politician George Hawi and journalist Samir Kassir, while others have escaped assassination attempts, including Defense Minister Elias Murr, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and television presenter May Chidiac;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 of May 30, 2007, created a special international tribunal to try suspects in the assassinations of former Prime Minister Hariri and others;

Whereas, by agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, the special international tribunal can receive jurisdiction for other attacks in Lebanon that ''are of a nature and gravity similar to the attack of 14 February 2005''; and

Whereas these continuing assassinations are intended to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and damage its fragile democratic institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of Antoine Ghanem and other victims of the attack of September 19, 2007, as well as to all the people of Lebanon;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly attack and urges that its perpetrators, including any state sponsor or official, be held accountable for their crimes;

(3) underscores its full support for the special international tribunal and urges the United Nations Security Council to extend its jurisdiction to include the Ghanem assassination;

(4) urges the President to increase coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East to more actively support the sovereignty of Lebanon and strengthen its governing institutions and security forces; and

(5) reasserts its strong belief that the people of Lebanon should be permitted to choose their next president, in a process scheduled to begin in September 2007, free from all foreign intimidation, interference, and violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

S. RES. 329

Whereas Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a year-long celebration, beginning September 24, 2007;

Whereas SIUE has grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other States, and 46 Nations;

Whereas SIUE has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history and has more than 75,000 alumni;

Whereas the SIUE School of Dental Medicine is rated among the top dental schools in the Nation and provides more than $50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day;

Whereas the SIUE East St. Louis Center is dedicated to improving the lives of families and individuals in East St. Louis and surrounding urban communities;

Whereas the University finished 4th nationally in the United States Sports Academy Directors' Cup among National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II schools in 2006;

Whereas SIUE contributes roughly $356,000,000 to the regional economy, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy;

Whereas SIUE is the home of University Park, an applied research and technology park located on the SIUE campus that is home to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center and the Biotechnology Laboratory Incubator: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) on its 50th anniversary, and wishes SIUE success in its continued service to the Nation as a center of educational advancement in Southern Illinois.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3023. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3024. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3025. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3026. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3027. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3028. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3029. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3030. Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3031. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3032. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3023. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. COMMERCIALIZATION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 9(y) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''The authority to create and administer a Commercialization Pilot Program under this subsection may not be construed to eliminate or replace any other SBIR program that enhances the insertion or transition of SBIR technologies, including any such program in effect on the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 119 Stat. 3136).'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) INSERTION INCENTIVES.—For any contract with a value of not less than $100,000,000, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to—

''(A) establish goals for transitioning Phase III technologies in subcontracting plans; and

''(B) require a prime contractor on such a contract to report the number and dollar amount of contracts entered into by that prime contractor for Phase III SBIR projects.

''(6) GOAL FOR SBIR TECHNOLOGY INSERTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

''(A) set a goal to increase the number of Phase II contracts awarded by that Secretary that lead to technology transition into programs of record or fielded systems;

''(B) use incentives in effect on the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, or create new incentives, to encourage prime contractors to meet the goal under subparagraph (A); and

''(C) submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an annual report regarding the percentage of contracts described in subparagraph (A) awarded by that Secretary.''; and

(4) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking ''fiscal year 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal year 2012''.

SA 3024. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION D—VETERAN SMALL BUSINESSES

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007''.

SEC. 4002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division—

(1) the term ''activated'' means receiving an order placing a Reservist on active duty;

(2) the term ''active duty'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

(3) the terms ''Administration'' and ''Administrator'' mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(4) the term ''Reservist'' means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as described in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

(5) the term ''Service Corps of Retired Executives'' means the Service Corps of Retired Executives authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));

(6) the terms ''service-disabled veteran'' and ''small business concern'' have the meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(7) the term ''small business development center'' means a small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

(8) the term ''women's business center'' means a women's business center described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

TITLE XLI—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 4101. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Administration, to remain available until expended—

(1) $2,100,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) $2,300,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

(3) $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2010.

(b) FUNDING OFFSET.—Amounts necessary to carry out subsection (a) shall be offset and made available through the reduction of the authorization of funding under section 20(e)(1)(B)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any amounts provided pursuant to this section that are in excess of amounts provided to the Administration for the Office of Veterans Business Development in fiscal year 2007, should be used to support Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

SEC. 4102. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President shall establish an interagency task force to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies necessary to increase capital and business development opportunities for, and increase the award of Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities to, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans (in this section referred to as the 'task force').

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the task force shall include—

''(A) the Administrator, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force;

''(B) a representative from—

''(i) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

''(ii) the Department of Defense;

''(iii) the Administration (in addition to the Administrator);

''(iv) the Department of Labor;

''(v) the Department of the Treasury;

''(vi) the General Services Administration; and

''(vii) the Office of Management and Budget; and

''(C) 4 representatives from a veterans service organization or military organization or association, selected by the President.

''(3) DUTIES.—The task force shall coordinate administrative and regulatory activities and develop proposals relating to—

''(A) increasing capital access and capacity of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through loans, surety bonding, and franchising;

''(B) increasing access to Federal contracting and subcontracting for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through expanded mentor-protégé assistance and matching such small business concerns with contracting opportunities;

''(C) increasing the integrity of certifications of status as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans or a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans;

''(D) reducing paperwork and administrative burdens on veterans in accessing business development and entrepreneurship opportunities; and

''(E) making other improvements relating to the support for veterans business development by the Federal Government.

''(4) REPORTING.—The task force shall submit an annual report regarding its activities and proposals to—

''(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.''.

SEC. 4103. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF SBA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

(a) ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES.—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) through (k) as subsections (h) through (j), respectively.

(b) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 203 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking subsection (h).

TITLE XLII—NATIONAL RESERVIST ENTERPRISE TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY

SEC. 4201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''National Reservist Enterprise Transition and Sustainability Act of 2007''.

SEC. 4202. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to establish a program to—

(1) provide managerial, financial, planning, development, technical, and regulatory assistance to small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(2) provide managerial, financial, planning, development, technical, and regulatory assistance to the temporary heads of small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(3) create a partnership between the Small Business Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists;

(4) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women's business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to expand the access of small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists to programs providing business management, development, financial, procurement, technical, regulatory, and marketing assistance;

(5) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women's business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to quickly respond to an activation of Reservists that own and operate small business concerns; and

(6) utilize the service delivery network of small business development centers, women's business centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers, and centers operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to assist Reservists that own and operate small business concerns in preparing for future military activations.

SEC. 4203. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''any small business development center, women's business center, Veterans Business Outreach Center, or center operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation providing enterprise transition and sustainability assistance to Reservists under section 37,'' after ''any women's business center operating pursuant to section 29,''.

(b) PROGRAM.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 37 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 38; and

(2) by inserting after section 36 the following:

''SEC. 37. RESERVIST ENTERPRISE TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide business planning assistance to small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the terms 'activated' and 'activation' mean having received an order placing a Reservists on active duty, as defined by section 101(1) of title 10, United States Code;

''(2) the term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, acting through the Associate Administrator for Small Business Development Centers;

''(3) the term 'Association' means the association established under section 21(a)(3)(A);

''(4) the term 'eligible applicant' means—

''(A) a small business development center that is accredited under section 21(k);

''(B) a women's business center;

''(C) a Veterans Business Outreach Center that receives funds from the Office of Veterans Business Development; or

''(D) an information and assistance center operated by the National Veterans Business Development Corporation under section 33;

''(5) the term 'enterprise transition and sustainability assistance' means assistance provided by an eligible applicant to a small business concern owned and operated by a Reservist, who has been activated or is likely to be activated in the next 12 months, to develop and implement a business strategy for the period while the owner is on active duty and 6 months after the date of the return of the owner;

''(6) the term 'Reservist' means any person who is—

''(A) a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as defined by section 10101 of title 10, United States Code; and

''(B) on active status, as defined by section 101(d)(4) of title 10, United States Code;

''(7) the term 'small business development center' means a small business development center as described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

''(8) the term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam; and

''(9) the term 'women's business center' means a women's business center described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

''(c) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may award grants, in accordance with the regulations developed under subsection (d), to eligible applicants to assist small business concerns owned and operated by Reservists by—

''(1) providing management, development, financing, procurement, technical, regulatory, and marketing assistance;

''(2) providing access to information and resources, including Federal and State business assistance programs;

''(3) distributing contact information provided by the Department of Defense regarding activated Reservists to corresponding State directors;

''(4) offering free, one-on-one, in-depth counseling regarding management, development, financing, procurement, regulations, and marketing;

''(5) assisting in developing a long-term plan for possible future activation; and

''(6) providing enterprise transition and sustainability assistance.

''(d) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Association and after notice and an opportunity for comment, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

''(2) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall promulgate final regulations not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007.

''(3) CONTENTS.—The regulations developed by the Administrator under this subsection shall establish—

''(A) procedures for identifying, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, States that have had a recent activation of Reservists;

''(B) priorities for the types of assistance to be provided under the program authorized by this section;

''(C) standards relating to educational, technical, and support services to be provided by a grantee;

''(D) standards relating to any national service delivery and support function to be provided by a grantee;

''(E) standards relating to any work plan that the Administrator may require a grantee to develop; and

''(F) standards relating to the educational, technical, and professional competency of any expert or other assistance provider to whom a small business concern may be referred for assistance by a grantee.

''(e) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible applicant desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may reasonably require.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe—

''(A) the activities for which the applicant seeks assistance under this section; and

''(B) how the applicant plans to allocate funds within its network.

''(f) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

''(1) DEADLINE.—The Administrator shall award grants not later than 60 days after the promulgation of final rules and regulations under subsection (d).

''(2) AMOUNT.—Each eligible applicant awarded a grant under this section shall receive a grant in an amount not greater than $300,000 per fiscal year.

''(g) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

''(A) initiate an evaluation of the program not later than 30 months after the disbursement of the first grant under this section; and

''(B) submit a report not later than 6 months after the initiation of the evaluation under paragraph (1) to—

''(i) the Administrator;

''(ii) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

''(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) address the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1); and

''(B) recommend changes to law, if any, that it believes would be necessary or advisable to achieve the goals of this section.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(A) $5,000,000 for the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007; and

''(B) $5,000,000 for each of the 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) FUNDING OFFSET.—Amounts necessary to carry out this section shall be offset and made available through the reduction of the authorization of funding under section 20(e)(1)(B)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note).''.

TITLE XLIII—RESERVIST PROGRAMS

SEC. 4301. RESERVIST PROGRAMS.

(a) APPLICATION PERIOD.—Section 7(b)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(C)) is amended by striking ''90 days'' and inserting ''1 year''.

(b) PRE-CONSIDERATION PROCESS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''eligible Reservist'' means a Reservist who—

(A) has not been ordered to active duty;

(B) expects to be ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict; and

(C) can reasonably demonstrate that the small business concern for which that Reservist is a key employee will suffer economic injury in the absence of that Reservist.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a preconsideration process, under which the Administrator—

(A) may collect all relevant materials necessary for processing a loan to a small business concern under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) before an eligible Reservist employed by that small business concern is activated; and

(B) shall distribute funds for any loan approved under subparagraph (A) if that eligible Reservist is activated.

(c) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a comprehensive outreach and technical assistance program (in this subsection referred to as the ''program'') to—

(A) market the loans available under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) to Reservists, and family members of Reservists, that are on active duty and that are not on active duty; and

(B) provide technical assistance to a small business concern applying for a loan under that section.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The program shall—

(A) incorporate appropriate websites maintained by the Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense; and

(B) require that information on the program is made available to small business concerns directly through—

(i) the district offices and resource partners of the Administration, including small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives; and

(ii) other Federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter until the date that is 30 months after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the program.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) for the 6-month period ending on the date of that report—

(I) the number of loans approved under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3));

(II) the number of loans disbursed under that section; and

(III) the total amount disbursed under that section; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, to make the program more effective in serving small business concerns that employ Reservists.

SEC. 4302. RESERVIST LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b)(3)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(E)) is amended by striking ''$1,500,000'' each place such term appears and inserting ''$2,000,000''.

(b) LOAN INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the Secretary of Defense shall develop a joint website and printed materials providing information regarding any program for small business concerns that is available to veterans or Reservists.

(2) MARKETING.—The Administrator is authorized—

(A) to advertise and promote the program under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act jointly with the Secretary of Defense and veterans' service organizations; and

(B) to advertise and promote participation by lenders in such program jointly with trade associations for banks or other lending institutions.

SEC. 4303. NONCOLLATERALIZED LOANS.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may make a loan under this paragraph of not more than $50,000 without collateral.

''(ii) The Administrator may defer payment of principal and interest on a loan described in clause (i) during the longer of—

''(I) the 1-year period beginning on the date of the initial disbursement of the loan; and

''(II) the period during which the relevant essential employee is on active duty.''.

SEC. 4304. LOAN PRIORITY.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) The Administrator shall give priority to any application for a loan under this paragraph and shall process and make a determination regarding such applications prior to processing or making a determination on other loan applications under this subsection, on a rolling basis.''.

SEC. 4305. RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any time limitation on any qualification, certification, or period of participation imposed under this Act on any program available to small business concerns shall be extended for a small business concern that—

''(i) is owned and controlled by—

''(I) a veteran who was called or ordered to active duty under a provision of law specified in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, on or after September 11, 2001; or

''(II) a service-disabled veteran who became such a veteran due to an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service during a period of active duty pursuant to a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in subclause (I) on or after September 11, 2001; and

''(ii) was subject to the time limitation during such period of active duty.

''(B) DURATION.—Upon submission of proper documentation to the Administrator, the extension of a time limitation under subparagraph (A) shall be equal to the period of time that such veteran who owned or controlled such a concern was on active duty as described in that subparagraph.''.

SEC. 4306. SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the types of assistance needed by service-disabled veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs; and

(2) any resources that would assist such service-disabled veterans.

SEC. 4307. STUDY ON OPTIONS FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THEIR RESERVE COMPONENT EMPLOYEES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on options for promoting positive working relations between employers and Reserve component employees of such employers, including assessing options for improving the time in which employers of Reservists are notified of the call or order of such members to active duty other than for training.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment of—

(i) what measures, if any, are being taken to inform Reservists of the obligations and responsibilities of such members to their employers;

(ii) how effective such measures have been; and

(iii) whether there are additional measures that could be taken to promote positive working relations between Reservists and their employers, including any steps that could be taken to ensure that employers are timely notified of a call to active duty; and

(B) assess whether there has been a reduction in the hiring of Reservists by business concerns because of—

(i) any increase in the use of Reservists after September 11, 2001; or

(ii) any change in any policy of the Department of Defense relating to Reservists after September 11, 2001.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

SA 3025. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 604. EXTENSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY LODGING EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION OR FOR INSTALLATIONS EXPERIENCING SUDDEN INCREASE IN PERSONNEL LEVELS.

(a) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF RECEIPT OF EXPENSES.—Section 404a(c)(3) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''20 days'' and inserting ''60 days''.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INCREASE IN CERTAIN BAH.—Section 403(b)(7)(E) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2008'' and inserting ''December 31, 2009''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

SA 3026. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 876. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MILITARY AND SECURITY CONTRACTING.

(a) REPORTS ON IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN CONTRACTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each submit to Congress a report that contains the information, current as of the date of the enactment of this Act, as follows:

(1) The number of persons performing work in Iraq and Afghanistan under contracts (and subcontracts at any tier) entered into by departments and agencies of the United States Government, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

(2) The companies awarded such contracts and subcontracts.

(3) The total cost of such contracts.

(4) The total number of persons who have been killed or wounded in performing work under such contracts.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORT ON STRATEGY FOR AND APPROPRIATENESS OF ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTORS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the strategy of the Department of Defense for the use of, and a description of the activities being carried out by, contractors and subcontractors working in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Department missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror, including its strategy for ensuring that such contracts do not—

(1) have private companies and their employees performing inherently governmental functions;

(2) place contractors in supervisory roles over United States Government personnel; or

(3) threaten the safety of contractor personnel or United States Government personnel.

SA 3027. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DOMESTIC MILITARY AVIATION NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of establishing a Domestic Military Aviation National Training Center (DMA-NTC) for current and future operational reconnaissance and surveillance missions of the National Guard that support local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine the current and past requirements of RC-26 aircraft in support of local, State, and Federal law enforcement and determine the number of aircraft required to provide such support for each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico;

(2) determine the number of military and civilian personnel required to run a RC-26 domestic training center meeting the requirements identified under paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the requirements and cost of locating such a training center at a military installation for the purpose of preempting and responding to security threats and responding to crises.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Adjutant General of each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico.

SA 3028. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.

Section 301(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13211(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(3) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(3) ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'alternative fueled vehicle' includes—

''(i) a new qualified fuel cell motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

''(ii) a new advanced lean burn technology motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(c)(3) of that Code);

''(iii) a new qualified hybrid motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(d)(3) of that Code); and

''(iv) any other type of vehicle that the agency demonstrates to the Secretary would achieve a significant reduction in petroleum consumption.''.

SA 3029. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 358. REPORTS ON SAFETY MEASURES AND ENCROACHMENT ISSUES AT WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE, NEW JERSEY.

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

(1) The United States Air Force has 32 training sites in the United States for aerial bombing and gunner training, of which Warren Grove Gunnery Range functions in the densely populated Northeast.

(2) A number of dangerous safety incidents caused by the Air National Guard have repeatedly impacted the residents of New Jersey, including the following:

(A) On May 15, 2007, a fire ignited during an Air National Guard practice mission at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, scorching 17,250 acres of New Jersey's Pinelands, destroying 5 houses, significantly damaging 13 others, and temporarily displacing approximately 6,000 people from their homes in sections of Ocean and Burlington Counties.

(B) In November 2004, an F-16 Vulcan cannon piloted by the District of Columbia Air National Guard was more than 3 miles off target when it blasted 1.5-inch steel training rounds into the roof of the Little Egg Harbor Township Intermediate School.

(C) In 2002, a pilot ejected from an F-16 aircraft just before it crashed into the woods near the Garden State Parkway, sending large pieces of debris onto the busy highway.

(D) In 1999, a dummy bomb was dumped a mile off target from the Warren Grove target range in the Pine Barrens, igniting a fire that burned 12,000 acres of the Pinelands forest.

(E) In 1997, the pilots of F-16 aircraft uplifting from the Warren Grove Gunnery Range escaped injury by ejecting from their aircraft just before the planes collided over the ocean near the north end of Brigantine. Pilot error was found to be the cause of the collision.

(F) In 1986, a New Jersey Air National Guard jet fighter crashed in a remote section of the Pine Barrens in Burlington County, starting a fire that scorched at least 90 acres of woodland.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFETY MEASURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts made to provide the highest level of safety by all of the military departments utilizing the Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

(c) STUDY ON ENCROACHMENT AT WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a study on encroachment issues at Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

(2) CONTENT.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include a master plan for the Warren Grove Gunnery Range and the surrounding community, taking into consideration military mission, land use plans, urban encroachment, the economy of the region, and protection of the environment and public health, safety, and welfare.

(3) REQUIRED INPUT.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include input from all affected parties and relevant stakeholders at the Federal, State, and local level.

SA 3030. Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2836. MODIFICATION OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS APPLICABLE TO UTAH NATIONAL DEFENSE LANDS.

Section 2815 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''that are adjacent to or near the Utah Test and Training Range and Dugway Proving Ground or beneath'' and inserting ''that are beneath''; and

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

''(e) SUNSET DATE.—This section shall expire on October 1, 2013.''.

SA 3031. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 1064, insert the following:

SEC. 1065. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

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

(1) The process for issuing security clearances is an antiquated, paper-driven effort that costs thousands of dollars and requires hundreds of days to process one request for a security clearance.

(2) Years of promises to improve the process have resulted in no reduction in the amount of time and money required to process a request for a security clearance and such process is hopelessly backlogged.

(3) The inability of civilians, intelligence officers, military personnel, and contractors to perform their jobs due to delays in receiving a security clearance results in substantial costs every year and poses a significant threat to the national security of the United States.

(4) The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence have begun to work together to improve the process for issuing security clearances and have established a team known as the ''Tiger Team'' to address problems in that process.

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

(1) the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence should continue to work together to rapidly update the antiquated security clearance process using existing commercial technology and innovative new approaches to transform the process to the maximum extent possible; and

(2) funding for processing of requests for security clearances should be made available directly through appropriations of funds for

that purpose and not through a fee-for-service arrangement with the Office of Management and Budget or the Office of Personnel Management.

(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall implement multiple demonstration projects that apply new and innovative approaches to improve the processing of requests for security clearances. Each such project shall utilize proven commercial technologies and methods to the maximum extent possible.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—No executive order that delegates responsibility for the issuance of security clearances to the personnel of the Office of Management and Budget shall apply to a demonstration project carried out under paragraph (1).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the status and progress of the demonstration projects carried out under paragraph (1).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out an evaluation of the process for issuing security clearances and develop a specific plan and schedule for replacing such process with an improved process.

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the evaluation carried out under paragraph (1) together with the plan developed under such paragraph.

SA 3032. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 531 and insert the following:

SEC. 531. SENSE OF SENATE ON FORGOING REVISIONS TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD.

It is the sense of the Senate that, in light of the wide range of views on the optimal structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board among the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Defense, and the Reserve community, and in light of the absence of full and complete hearings in Congress on that structure, the Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense should not include revisions to the structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled ''Improving Internet Access to Help Small Business Compete in a Global Economy,'' on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Monday, September 24, 2007, at 3 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to consider scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TED POE TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM DELAHUNT TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session and the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following nominations: TED POE to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and WILLIAM DELAHUNT to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

Ted Poe, of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

William Delahunt, of Massachusetts, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ANTOINE GHANEM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 328.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 328) condemning the assassination on September 19, 2007, of Antoine Ghanem, a member of the Parliament of Lebanon who opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in the coming days there will be more funerals in Lebanon for fresh victims of despicable terror attacks. On Wednesday, September 19, 2007, Lebanese member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem and at least six others were killed in a massive car bomb attack in the suburbs of Beirut.

Tragically, this is an all-too-frequent occurrence for the people of Lebanon. The wave began with the February 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 others. On the 1-month anniversary of Prime Minister Hariri's assassination, something remarkable happened—hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Martyr's Square in downtown Beirut—spontaneously giving birth to the March 14 movement and the Cedar Revolution. Just 6 weeks after the March 14 movement began, the thousands of Syrian military forces that had occupied Lebanon for nearly three decades were out of the country.

But although the military occupation of Lebanon ended in 2005, Lebanon has remained under siege, as Wednesday's events remind us. Six Lebanese parliamentarians have now been killed in 2½ years. These six, and other prominent Lebanese figures who were also killed during the same period, shared one important attribute—they were outspoken critics of the Syrian domination of Lebanon.

Senator LUGAR, Senator SUNUNU and I are introducing a sense of the Senate resolution condemning the despicable assassination of Antoine Ghanem and urging that the international community continue its support for the government and people of Lebanon.

To the families of victims of Wednesday's attack and to the people of Lebanon, the Senate offers its deepest condolences for your losses. Wednesday's attack seeks to undermine the international tribunal set up earlier this

year to try the killers of Prime Minister Hariri and other Lebanese victims of political violence. So we call on the Bush administration to redouble its support for the tribunal and to work to ensure that Wednesday's crime is included in its jurisdiction.

These attacks on Lebanon must stop. This resolution expresses bipartisan support for holding accountable any state sponsor or official implicated in the string of political assassinations beginning in February 2005. To many an observer it is no accident that this assassination occurred as we approach the critical period during which Lebanon will choose its next president. Many informed voices, both in and out of Lebanon, are pointing to Damascus. So to the regime of Bashar al-Assad, know that we in Washington are watching events in Lebanon very carefully. Lebanon must be free to choose its next president without intimidation or violence.

Lebanon's enemies must understand that they face a united international front. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France, and the broader European Union all have lead roles to play. So does the United States. So we call upon the international community to intensify the efforts to support the people and fragile democratic institutions of Lebanon.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 328) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 328

Whereas Antoine Ghanem and at least 6 others were killed in a car-bomb attack in the Sin el-Fil suburb of Beirut on September 19, 2007;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem was a member of the Parliament of Lebanon from the Lebanese Kataeb Party representing the Baabda and Aley districts of Mount Lebanon;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem is the 6th member of the Parliament of Lebanon who had opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon to be assassinated since February 2005, including former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri, former Economy and Trade Minister Bassel Fleihan, Gebran Tueni, Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, and Walid Eido;

Whereas other prominent figures in Lebanon who have opposed Syrian interference in that country have also been assassinated in the same time period, including politician George Hawi and journalist Samir Kassir, while others have escaped assassination attempts, including Defense Minister Elias Murr, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and television presenter May Chidiac;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 of May 30, 2007, created a special international tribunal to try suspects in the assassinations of former Prime Minister Hariri and others;

Whereas, by agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, the special international tribunal can receive jurisdiction for other attacks in Lebanon that ''are of a nature and gravity similar to the attack of 14 February 2005''; and

Whereas these continuing assassinations are intended to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and damage its fragile democratic institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of Antoine Ghanem and other victims of the attack of September 19, 2007, as well as to all the people of Lebanon;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly attack and urges that its perpetrators, including any state sponsor or official, be held accountable for their crimes;

(3) underscores its full support for the special international tribunal and urges the United Nations Security Council to extend its jurisdiction to include the Ghanem assassination;

(4) urges the President to increase coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East to more actively support the sovereignty of Lebanon and strengthen its governing institutions and security forces; and

(5) reasserts its strong belief that the people of Lebanon should be permitted to choose their next president, in a process scheduled to begin in September 2007, free from all foreign intimidation, interference, and violence.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-EDWARDSVILLE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 329.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 329) congratulating Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, SIUE, as it marks its 50th year as a center of educational advancement in Southern Illinois. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville marks its 50th anniversary this year with a year-long celebration that begins on September 24, 2007.

SIUE is a public university built by the people of Illinois for the people of Illinois in response to the clear need for a campus of higher education in the Metro-East area of greater St. Louis. Fifty years ago, only three percent of the adult population had completed four years of college. Since there was no nearby higher education center and most families could not afford the cost of sending their kids far away for college, the community appealed to Southern Illinois University to establish a satellite campus at Edwardsville.

Today, SIUE continues to serve the community that initiated its founding and has helped improve the quality of life for all citizens of the area. The university has grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other States, and 46 nations. It offers a broad choice of degrees ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. The university gives back to the surrounding community through programs, including its East St. Louis Center, which provides social services to families in East St. Louis and surrounding urban communities. Each year, more than 8,000 individuals benefit from the programs and services housed at the East St. Louis Center. SIUE also contributes to the economic welfare of the entire region as both one of the largest employers in Madison County and a producer of many graduates who remain in the area after college. The number of college graduates in Madison and St. Clair counties has risen from three percent to 20 percent, largely made up of SIUE graduates. These graduates give back to the community every day, and the highly educated, skilled workforce they form is one of the greatest resources in Southern Illinois.

If you visit the campus at SIUE, you will see some of the truly exceptional and innovative educational programs taking place there today. The University's Senior Assignment Program, an integrative learning experience required of all seniors, was ranked as a national model for learning assessment by the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 2007. The SIU School of Dental Medicine, the only Illinois dental school outside Cook County, is rated among the top dental schools in the Nation on national board dental exams and serves as a primary oral healthcare provider for Southern Illinois. SIUE's University Park, an applied research and technology park, is the home to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center which explores the viability of alternative fuels. In athletics, SIUE is currently transitioning to NCAA Division I status and proudly brought home the NCAA Division II championship in softball in 2007.

Over the last half century, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has grown to become a tremendous asset to the students and citizens of Illinois. It's my honor to congratulate the University on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to many more years of excellence in education in the future.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 329) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 329

Whereas Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) will celebrate its 50th

anniversary with a year-long celebration, beginning September 24, 2007;

Whereas SIUE has grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other States, and 46 Nations;

Whereas SIUE has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history and has more than 75,000 alumni;

Whereas the SIUE School of Dental Medicine is rated among the top dental schools in the Nation and provides more than $50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day;

Whereas the SIUE East St. Louis Center is dedicated to improving the lives of families and individuals in East St. Louis and surrounding urban communities;

Whereas the University finished 4th nationally in the United States Sports Academy Directors' Cup among National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II schools in 2006;

Whereas SIUE contributes roughly $356,000,000 to the regional economy, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy;

Whereas SIUE is the home of University Park, an applied research and technology park located on the SIUE campus that is home to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center and the Biotechnology Laboratory Incubator: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) on its 50th anniversary, and wishes SIUE success in its continued service to the Nation as a center of educational advancement in Southern Illinois.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 25; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that once morning business is closed, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1585, the Department of Defense authorization bill; that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the respective party conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business from the distinguished Republican leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Monday, September 24, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TED POE, OF TEXAS, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

WILLIAM DELAHUNT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHERWOOD OAKS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Sherwood Oaks, a nonprofit continuing care retirement community located in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.

This Silver Anniversary is not only noteworthy in itself, but the story behind Sherwood Oaks is quite extraordinary. Sherwood Oaks was created by a handful of unpaid ''ordinary'' Pittsburgh-area seniors who, in seeking a community in which they themselves wanted to live, turned a farmers' field into what has since evolved into a vibrant senior living community of some 400 residents.

These determined and ambitious dreamers—Sally Dewees, Martha Leonard, Jane T. Locke and Margaret McCoy—did their homework by researching communities in the area and around the country, and, in order to make their vision a reality, enthusiastically spread their ideas within the community.

On September 1, 1982, the founders and the construction board—Norman and Sally Dewees; Frank and Betty Hess; Jean and Craig Stockdale; Dorothy Van der Vort; and Richard McCoy—realized the fruits of their labor when Sherwood Oaks officially opened its doors to its original 53 residents.

I want to thank Paul Winkler, the president and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare for bringing this story to my attention. Paul serves as the board chair of PANPHA, an association of some 360 nonprofit senior service providers throughout Pennsylvania, and I have asked him to convey my best wishes to the Sherwood Oaks community when he represents PANPHA at a celebratory event scheduled for Friday, September 28.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chairman, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007. Section 29 of this bill is designed to clarify congressional intent regarding certain properties that entered the HUD property disposition process prior to the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act but where the initial proposed disposition was delayed. An example of one such project is Parkview Apartments in Ypsilanti, Michigan. While I believe that this particular project is already subject to the grandfathering provision of the DRA, Section 29 clarifies that such properties should be considered ''pre-DRA'' properties, and that HUD should proceed with its prior disposition contracts as to those properties. This clarification was requested by HUD and, in drafting this provision, we were assisted by HUD staff and were assured that this language was the clarification the agency needed to proceed with the 2004 contract as to Parkview Apartments.

HONORING MR. CARL ULLRICH

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to honor Mr. Carl Ullrich for his induction into the Army Sports Hall of Fame, his service to our nation in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict, his lifetime of service to our Nation's student athletes, and as the patriarch of a remarkable and respected family.

Following his combat tour in Korea, Mr. Ullrich embarked on a life devoted to leading, teaching and coaching with an energy and effectiveness that would profoundly and positively influence the lives of tens of thousands of young men and women and their families. For more than a half century, Mr. Ullrich was an exemplar of integrity, accountability and decency at the Friends Academy in New York, Irvington High School and Newark Academy in New Jersey, Cornell University, Columbia University, Boston University, Sanford Naval Academy, the United States Naval Academy, Western Michigan University, the United States Military Academy, The Patriot League and St. Andrews Presbyterian College. He has been an ideal steward of the spirit of intercollegiate athletics as envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt when he established the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States in 1906. Just as President Roosevelt wrote to his children, ''I don't want you to sacrifice standing well in your studies to any over-athleticism; and I need not tell you that character counts for a great deal more than either intellect or body in winning success in life,'' so too did Carl Ullrich impress those same values on his children, two generations of student athletes, and many who administer and legislate intercollegiate athletics. It is important to note that some of those student athletes have carried Mr. Ullrich's ideals with them as they served with great courage in our armed forces. For that alone, he deserves our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

However, greatest of all his many accomplishments is his family. His wife Becky is his partner, friend, and guiding light for over fifty-four years. His daughters Julie Anderson and Kathy Donovan are mothers, key members of their communities and accomplished women. His sons Rick, Tom and Mike have carried on their father's commitment to family, honor and country. His son-in-law Walt Donovan served our Navy for thirty years. He is the proud grandfather to Kelly Meissner, Ben Anderson, Alex Ullrich, Andrew Ullrich, Ned Ullrich, Liam Donovan, Courtney Donovan, Rebecca Ullrich, Chris Ullrich, Taylor Ullrich, Rachel Ullrich, and Jacob Ullrich; and great grandfather to Lisa and Cara Meissner.

Madam Speaker, it is especially fitting that Carl Ullrich was chosen to be inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame at this time. With our nation at war and our society too often distracted by the excesses of some professional athletes, the leadership at West Point is to be commended for allowing us all a moment to reflect on the achievements of an individual who embodies all that is good and right in our country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES VANIK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our former colleagues, Congressman Charlie Vanik. For 26 years, he was an admirable spokesman not only for the people of his district, but for the Nation.

During his time in office, Congressman Vanik was one of Congress's most vocal advocates for human rights. In 1974, he co-authored an amendment to a trade law that required the United States to assess the human rights records of foreign countries before granting them special privileges. This law put pressure on the Soviet Union to allow freer emigration, and as a result, more than 2 million people were able to leave the Soviet Union in search of a better life.

While he was a Member of Congress, he never forgot where he came from or the people he represented. During his time in office he helped to pass several Federal programs, including the Federal school lunch program, that would help the people in his district and throughout the country improve their livelihoods. In addition, he is remembered by his former colleagues as a savvy, gifted speaker who had the ability to make every person in a room smile.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of Congressman Charlie Vanik. May he rest in peace, and may his service to his country and to this body always be remembered honorably. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his son, Jon; his daughter, Phyllis; and two grandchildren.

INTRODUCING THE HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce, along with my colleague Representative VERN EHLERS, the ''Higher Education Sustainability Act of 2007.'' This legislation authorizes funding for sustainability programs in American colleges and universities to develop, implement, and evaluate economic, environmental, and social sustainability programs. The legislation also directs the Secretary of Education to convene a summit of higher education experts to showcase best practices in the field of sustainability.

Hundreds of U.S. cities and companies as well as international agencies, including the United Nations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, are advancing sustainable practices in all arenas. As population growth, urban development and extreme weather incidents place greater stress on ecosystems around the globe; the need for developing innovative approaches to sustainable development becomes critical to our economic competitiveness, environmental health, and the strength of our communities.

The ''Higher Education Sustainability Act'' would facilitate the development of programs that keep American students on the cutting edge of technology and global competition while benefiting our communities. The legislation also provides funds to establish rigorous benchmarks for evaluating programs, ensuring that sustainability graduates meet industry standards for best practices. With the threat of global warming looming larger every day, we must invest now in the research and human capital needed to address its impacts and sustain our economy and our communities.

IN HONOR OF MIKE TORIGIANI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Mike Torigiani of Buttonwillow, California for receiving the 2007 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Kern County Fair. His dedication to young participants of 4–H and Future Farmers of America among other activities make Mike Torigiani most deserving of this honor.

Mike Torigiani was born in Kern County in 1943 during World War II. Son of Gino and Olympia Torigiani, Mike attended Buttonwillow Elementary School and graduated from Shafter High School. Immediately following high school, Mr. Torigiani attended Bakersfield College for two years, after which he began his farming career.

Mr. Torigiani formed a partnership with his uncle Oliver entitled O & M Farms. After 3 years of farming in that partnership, he decided to join his father and brother in business. Mr. Torigiani and his brother, Ron Torigiani, own and operate Torigiani Farms, which is a third generation business established in 1970.

Mr. Torigiani has served as President of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Buttonwillow Lions Club. In 1975, Mr. Torigiani was named as Buttonwillow's Honorary Mayor. He has served on the Kern County Fair Beef Board for over twenty years and, serving in this capacity, he has enjoyed every moment he has been affiliated with the Junior Livestock at the Kern County Fair. Mr. Torigiani has shown his interest and dedication through countless hours helping young people raise livestock for the Kern County Fair.

Mr. Torigiani married Sandy Bulluomini in 1965 and together they have two sons, Steve, who is an attorney and partner in Young Wooldridge Law Firm, and Jim, who is an entomologist with Western Farm Service. His grandchildren, Tyler and Mia, are the light of his life and he looks forward to sharing the joy and tradition of the Kern County Fair with them.

The leadership and commitment Mr. Torigiani has shown to the Kern County Fair and the Kern County youth has never wavered. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. Mike Torigiani is a role model for all of us and it is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and for all that he does for Kern County residents.

2007 SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 5th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 23–29, 2007, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the past, the killing of these animals for their fur brought their numbers down to less than 100 by the 1930s. The decline of southern sea otter populations not only has impacts on the species itself, but also affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. For instance, the demise of sea otters allows their prey sea urchins to proliferate unchecked, which leads to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the ocean's nursery grounds for many marine animals. In particular, research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Sea otter research also has proven to be an effective method of monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, both of which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the State's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities. Protecting them is not only directly advantageous to the otter population, but also fosters indirect benefits on a greater scale.

Groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, The Otter Project, and The Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Due to these efforts, the southern sea otter population has increased to more than 2,800 animals.

However, these numbers are still significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population stable and their population growth in recent years is slower than expected. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as nonpoint source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to slow. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

California has taken the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing into law California Assembly Bill 2485, which establishes a State fund for sea otter conservation. This year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. To date, this has raised $145,000.

However, this is a federally protected species and the State cannot go it alone. In addition to working with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I am also introducing the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act today. This bill provides for research and recovery programs for the southern sea otter.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife and other non-profit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, State and Federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern/California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

NEVER HURT SOMEONE YOU LOVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, for too many people in this country, love comes with bruises, broken bones, and black eyes. Twenty years ago, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. In the past 20 years, there are programs, education, and funding dedicated to preventing domestic violence, but domestic violence is still a dangerous reality for too many Americans. One in every four women will be a victim of domestic violence during her lifetime. But domestic violence doesn't discriminate—it affects everyone—men, women, and children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic status. It affects the workplace, increases health care costs, and spurs even more violence among children who witness it at home. The cost of domestic violence is staggering—over $5.8 billion each year. Domestic violence happens

during dating and in marriages. Children who witness domestic violence at home do poorly in school, use drugs and alcohol at an early age, and are more likely to engage in violent behavior themselves. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

As a former prosecutor and judge, I founded the Congressional Victim Rights Caucus to advocate for crime victims. I sponsored H. Res. 590 to declare October 2007 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October will raise awareness of the increasing number of abusers who murder their victims and then take their own lives, in addition to the financial strain experienced by domestic violence victims, including loss of employment and loss of housing. In October, thousands of victim advocacy organizations, State coalitions, and community groups will hold events to bring awareness to the violence that affects men, women, and children every single year. Community awareness about domestic violence allows victims to seek help—it creates shelters for domestic violence victims to seek refuge in, holds abusers accountable, and helps children live in nonviolent homes.

In the past, Congress's support of this month has led to an increasing number of local community groups, religious organizations, health care provides, corporations, and media addressing domestic violence in communities.

Congress has been instrumental in increasing the funding for programs located under the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, but there is still a need for further awareness of domestic violence. Let's send a message to domestic violence victims that Congress is their voice. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING 10TH DISTRICT SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor those who wear the uniform and serve their Nation in the U.S. armed services. We have more than 1.3 million active duty troops stationed throughout the world, and we owe these men and women much for their dedication and service. As a Naval Reserve intelligence officer who just returned from 2 weeks of active duty in August, I would also like to thank those who serve in our military's Reserve forces. More than 800,000 Americans serve in the seven Reserve branches, including the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

Several weeks ago, I learned of one individual in my district that demonstrates the strong commitment to community and country that every Reserve enlisted person and officer has.

Tom Baier resides in Libertyville, IL, where the 53-year-old doctor has an orthopedic surgery practice. He serves as a team physician for several local youth sports teams, as well as a teacher for other doctors for arthroscopic ACL reconstruction surgery.

Dr. Baier's son Mike enlisted in the Marine Corps last spring and is currently stationed in Iraq. In part because of his son's service and his specialized surgical knowledge, Dr. Baier joined the Army Reserve's medical corps. On August 9, he was commissioned as a major and will report for training in the coming months.

Like many serving in our Reserve forces, Dr. Baier brings with him an expertise that will be an incredible asset to our military. Our men and women in the military deserve nothing but the finest medical care possible and I am grateful that we have individuals like Dr. Baier to provide that care. For all the men and women serving in the 10th Congressional District, from active duty to Reserve, as well as their families, we are honored by your sacrifices and selfless dedication to the Nation. We are a stronger country because of individuals like Dr. Baier.

HONORING BOB MIZER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Mizer on the occasion of his becoming an honorary member of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, VVFD.

Mr. Mizer is a 1964 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. A retired naval officer, he moved to Fairfax County, VA, in 1979 and has been an exemplary model of service within the county ever since.

In July 2000, he took the position of volunteer liaison for the VVFD. The VVFD is a volunteer organization that works in conjunction with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in order to provide the fire department with supplemental staffing, as well as additional units such as an ambulance and engine. VVFD owns and maintains the station and its equipment, while Fairfax County provides 24-hour staffing with paid firefighters and paramedics on three shifts.

Mr. Mizer left his position as volunteer liaison on September 4, 2007, but will continue as president of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Bob Mizer for his years of service and dedication to the VVFD. The events of September 11, 2001 serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Mizer, and congratulating him on being named an honorary member of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MITCHELL ROSENTHAL

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to have known. The late Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal of Vauxhall, NJ, passed away suddenly in May at the age of 58.

For people who did not know Dr. Rosenthal, he was part of the small group of founders of the National Head Injury Foundation, now known as the Brain Injury Association of America. Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability among young Americans in the United States.

During his renowned life, Dr. Rosenthal was the Chief Operating Officer for Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation in West Orange, NJ, and Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

He also served on several committees and boards dedicated to brain injury research and education, including the TBI National Database Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the American Psychological Association. Further, he served as the President of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine in 1992.

Dr. Rosenthal received many awards during his career; he published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book chapters, and he delivered more than 200 presentations at major national and international meetings, primarily related to brain injury rehabilitation.

As co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Rosenthal on the issues of TBI education, services and research funding here in Congress.

The brain injury community has lost a great advocate. Dr. Rosenthal will be deeply missed by those who knew him, and by those whose lives he has bettered through his dedication to brain injury research and education.

He leaves a legacy of true leadership, intellectual honesty, and total commitment to others. I would like to offer my condolences to the Rosenthal family, his wife Margaret, and his children Michelle and David.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated community servants like Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone gathered this evening, Mitchell's family and friends, and me in recognizing the late Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal's outstanding service to his community.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL ROTORFEST

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Eleventh Annual Rotorfest

presented by the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center.

Every October more than 12,000 people gather at the Brandywine Airport in West Chester, Pennsylvania for Rotorfest, a weekend festival devoted to promoting rotary flight mechanics. This year's festival takes place on October 13th and 14th.

This year's All Helicopter Air Show features the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Parachute Demonstration Team, known as the Black Daggers.

There are three shows a day featuring military and civilian helicopters performing choreographed flight demonstrations.

The American Helicopter Museum and Education Center is committed to preserving the history of rotary flight mechanics.

The museum is dedicated to educating the public with programs about the principles of flight, the innovators of aviation and to encourage future scientists and innovators.

The museum features eight hands-on helicopters where visitors can test their flying skills.

This year the museum features the only V–22 Osprey on exhibit in the world. New to the museum's collection this year is a Boeing M360, an experimental, all composite helicopter that came close to breaking the world's speed record.

I am pleased to celebrate the eleventh year of this festival that is fun for all ages. I am thankful to the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center for their dedication to preserving the history and promoting the future of rotary based flight.

I ask that everyone to join me in commending the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center for their commitment to educating and entertaining the public.

HONORING HARRIS SAUL NUSSBAUM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris Nussbaum, who is being recognized as the first Our Children's Hero honoree by the If Given a Chance Foundation during their first annual ''Chance Encounter'' event. Mr. Nussbaum is being honored for his remarkable work and the positive contributions he has made in the lives of young people in the Napa Valley and beyond.

If Given a Chance was founded in 1994 by a group of concerned Napa citizens who wanted to find ways to help address the myriad problems young people face. In 1995, they made their first awards to a diverse group of young adults who had overcome unusual challenges, including a young single mother, former gang members, and a young man with cerebral palsy. Now, If Given a Chance annually awards $150,000 in scholarships to young people from around the region.

Mr. Nussbaum has been a positive and influential force in the lives of Napa's children for many years. He has been a teacher, helping students overcome the hurdles in their lives. He has founded or directed countless programs to support peer tutoring and community service for young people. His work has enabled people of all ages in our community to take control of their lives, and to reach out and help others who may need support.

Mr. Nussbaum has also been tireless in his work with a wide ranging group of organizations benefiting our community. I have been personally privileged to see the work he did as a founding member and president of Aldea, helping to provide for some of the area's neediest children. As an advisor to the California legislature on educational policy and community service programming, he has lent his expertise to our State's policy makers. He has been of the greatest service to Napa County, serving on the Commissions on Children, Youth and Families; Mental Health Services Act Advisory Board; and the Opera House Board.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we recognize Mr. Harris Nussbaum for his work on behalf of Napa County's children. He richly deserves recognition as Our Children's Hero, and I know he will continue to support the superb services he has helped create for our children.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL PETER PACE, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and pay tribute to a true patriot and exceptional leader of our military, General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his more than 40 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Armed Forces and to our country.

General Pace was born in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up in Teaneck, NJ. A 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from The George Washington University and attended Harvard University for the Senior Executives in National and International Security program. The General is also a graduate of the Infantry Officers' Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia; the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, in Quantico, Virginia; and the National War College, at Ft. McNair, Washington, DC.

In 1968, upon completion of The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, General Pace was assigned to the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam, serving first as a Rifle Platoon Leader and subsequently as Assistant Operations Officer. He joined his platoon, their third platoon leader in as many weeks, during the battle for Hue City. He was decorated for valor during his tour in Vietnam, yet General Pace holds as one of his most valued treasures the photo of LCpl Guido Farinaro, the first Marine he lost in combat. The lance corporal's forever young likeness is under the glass on General Pace's desk, each day reminding him of the impact of his decisions as a military leader. Following Vietnam, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, where he served as Security Detachment Commander, Camp David; White House Social Aide; and Platoon Leader, Special Ceremonial Platoon.

General Pace has held command at virtually every level, and served in overseas billets in Nam Phong, Thailand; Seoul, Korea; and Yokota, Japan. While serving as President, Marine Corps University, then Brigadier General Pace also served as Deputy Commander, Marine Forces, Somalia, from December 1992–February 1993, and as the Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force–Somalia from October 1993–March 1994.

After an assignment as the Director for Operations (J–3), on the Joint Staff in Washington, DC, then Lieutenant General Pace served as the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic/Europe/South. He was promoted to Generaleral and assumed duties as the Commander in Chief, United States Southern Command in September 2000.

General Peter Pace was sworn in as the sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on September 30, 2005, giving him the distinction of being the first Marine to serve in this role. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council. Prior to becoming Chairman, General Pace served as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2001 to August 2005, also earning him the distinction as the first Marine to have served in this capacity.

General Pace and his wife, Lynne, have a son, Peter, a daughter, Tiffany Marie, and a daughter-in-law, Lynsey Olczak Pace.

General Pace represented the U.S. Armed Forces with great distinction for the past 2 years as its senior military officer and throughout his more than four decades of service to our great Nation. He is a highly respected source of military counsel for our country's leaders, always keeping at the forefront the best interests of our men and women in uniform. General Pace is known for his thoughtful manner, his sense of humor, and his integrity. One Pace trademark we have all come to value is his constant consideration of ''PFC Pace'' in all military-related discussion, thereby ensuring the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, the Homeland Defense Council, and this body of Congress consider the impact of their decisions on even the most junior members of our military. General Pace's leadership significantly contributed to the success of military operations in recent years and improved the security of the United States.

General Pace took every opportunity to recognize the tremendous efforts of the 2.4 million active, guard and reserve members of the Armed Forces, and he likewise recognized the invaluable dedication and sacrifices of the family members who sustain our all-recruited force. During his tenure as Chairman and Vice Chairman, General Pace traveled more than 715,000 miles to meet with his counterparts around the world, and visit troops stationed overseas and across the United States.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to General Pace and in thanking him for his dedicated leadership to our country.

CONGRATULATING SANDY INSALACO, RECIPIENT OF THE ''LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD'' FROM THE ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Sandy Insalaco, of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who is this year's recipient of the ''Lifetime Achievement Award'' given by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

A principal of Insalaco Development Group, Sandy's company develops, owns and operates commercial real estate in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

He is president and chief executive officer of Nature's Way Purewater, a bottler of private label spring, distilled and reverse osmosis water for supermarket chain stores and other clients throughout the United States and Canada.

Mr. Insalaco is chairman of the board of directors of Landmark Community Bank headquartered in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and with offices in Forty Fort, Scranton and Stroudsburg Pennsylvania.

He is a past chairman and now a member of the board of trustees of Misericordia University.

Mr. Insalaco has served on the board of trustees of the Mercy HealthCare Foundation since it was established by the late Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan and he served as chairman of that foundation. Mercy HealthCare Foundation supports health initiatives for the underserved in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Insalaco started his business career in 1957, joining his brother, Michael, in the retail food business. The company grew from one small store to 14 supermarkets located in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania. The company was sold in 1993.

Mr. Insalaco served on the board of directors of the former United Penn Bank in Wilkes-Barre. He also served as chairman and a member of the board of directors of Affiliated Food Distributors, Inc., Scranton, Pennsylvania.

He has been actively involved with fundraising for St. Maria Goretti Church, the Greater Hazleton Philharmonic Society, the Greater Pittston Memorial Library, Mercy HealthCare Foundation and Misericordia University.

Mr. Insalaco and his wife, Marlene, have 2 sons, Sandy Jr., and Michael. They also have five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Insalaco on this special occasion which honors a lifetime of extraordinary achievement that has touched the lives of many people and improved the quality of life throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX CHIN FOR OVER FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CONGRESS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Felix Chin for his outstanding, dedicated, and professional service to the United States Congress.

Mr. Chin's federal service started in 1959, when he honorably served his country in the United States Army. His 3 years in the U.S. Army included a tour of duty in Vietnam. His service to Congress began in 1965 in the Library of Congress' Aerospace Technology Division where he translated and analyzed intelligence documents from Chinese sources on economic, political, military and social affairs in Communist China. He then served as an economics bibliographer in the Library Services Division of the Congressional Research Service beginning in 1969. After more than 38 years, he has concluded his library career as a senior bibliographer and information research specialist and will be retiring in the ''Old Line State.''

During his tenure with CRS, Mr. Chin responded to numerous congressional inquiries on economics-related research and authored many CRS annotated bibliographies and other information research products for Congress. He assisted in the development of SCORPIO through his participation on the SCORPIO Advisory Group and participated in the implementation of other congressional services such as the Selective Dissemination of Information Service. In 1973, he received a Meritorious Service Award for the large burden he carried as the only CRS economics bibliographer. He also received a Special Achievement Award in 2004 for the creative training he presented to Government and Finance Division analysts in the use of databases in the areas of international banking and foreign debt, and treaties. He was recognized by analysts in the former CRS Economics Division for his research expertise, bibliographic support, and enormous contribution to their work. He is greatly admired and respected by his colleagues and friends throughout the Congressional Research Service.

Mr. Chin received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from George Washington University in 1968 and a master's degree in Supervision and Management from Central Michigan University in 1979 as a member of the first graduating class at the Library. Mr. Chin is a dedicated and kind mentor; he has inspired many young professionals to begin and continue a public service career.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join Felix Chin's colleagues, family, and friends in commemorating his nearly 50 years of Federal service. It is my honor to have this opportunity to wish him well as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement. In addition, I join my congressional colleagues in thanking Mr. Chin for his many years of service to Congress and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN E. COX, NEWLY APPOINTED MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan E. Cox, an outstanding attorney, who was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois on August 27, 2007. A resident of LaGrange, Illinois, in the Third Congressional District, Judge Cox has demonstrated outstanding integrity and intelligence throughout her distinguished career. I am pleased to congratulate her on this well deserved appointment.

Before her designation as Magistrate Judge, Ms. Cox held a wide array of positions within the field of law. Most recently, she practiced both civil and criminal law in her own private practice, and she also spent 8 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, as well as 3 years as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Wayne R. Anderson. During her 11 years of civil practice, Ms. Cox gained expertise in cases regarding employment, commercial, and patent infringement. Ms. Cox's many experiences and talents led her to be appointed by the federal court to assist in monitoring the employment actions of the City of Chicago. She also has devoted her valuable time to sharing her knowledge with others by serving as an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law.

As a Magistrate, Judge Cox will employ the same insightfulness and passion for the law that she has acquired in her many past experiences and accomplishments. Some of her duties will include presiding over civil cases and misdemeanor criminal cases with the consent of the parties, conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, and assisting the District Court Judges with pretrial motions, evidentiary proceedings, and settlement negotiations.

It is my honor to recognize Susan E. Cox as she takes a new step in her career as a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Her integrity, experience, and passion for the law will greatly benefit the U.S. District Court. It is also my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Magistrate Judge Cox for this milestone in her life and commend her on her many contributions to the field of law.

TRIBUTE TO NEOSHO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a group of law enforcement officers whose quick thinking and courageous intervention saved lives and ended a tragic shooting spree earlier this summer in southwest Missouri. It was a shooting that left three people dead and several others wounded at the

First Congregational Church in Neosho, Mo., and it happened on August 12th of this year.

The events of that day startled the Nation, shocked the tight-knit town of Neosho, and devastated the small Micronesian community in the area from which the victims of these senseless and depraved acts of violence came. The shootings occurred during the early afternoon church services near downtown Neosho, with the first call for help coming at 1:54 p.m. Within minutes, officers from the Neosho Police Department, the Newton County Sheriff's Office and the Missouri Highway Patrol were on the scene and organizing a plan to put this nightmare to an end.

Officers arriving first were told a lone gunman had burst into the church and begun firing, severely injuring several people and possibly wounding a good deal more. The conditions of the victims were unknown. Several members of the congregation fled the church and the gunman ordered that other children take leave. But as many as 30 worshipers remained held at gunpoint at the moment the officers arrived.

Neosho Police Chief David McCracken, who was in charge at the scene, issued a command decision that would bring a quick and positive end to situation. Within minutes, McCracken had organized an impromptu team of experienced officers from three different agencies schooled in special weapons and tactics. After hearing another gunshot from inside the church, the seven-man team entered the sanctuary through a side door into the building.

Inside they found a 52-year-old man armed with two handguns—one of them pointed at the head of a female hostage. In a corner of the church, the gunman had gathered around 30 members of the congregation, and positioned them around him. Nearby lay three people mortally wounded, including two pastors and a deacon of the church, and five others clinging to life. As they entered the church, the gunman ordered the officers to leave. They told him to put down his weapon. And, perhaps recognizing his choice was either to comply with the demand or face a penalty similar to the one he imposed on his victims, he did just that.

In those tense moments, officers made it clear they intended to use deadly force to end the standoff. The confrontation with officers lasted less than 10 minutes. Eiken Elam Saimon gave up his handguns and was taken into custody. He has been charged with multiple offenses, including three counts of capital murder. Found inside the church were Micronesian-American pastor, Kernel Rehobson, 43; his uncle, Intenson Rehobson, 44; and Kuhpes Jesse Ikosia, 53.

Newton County Sheriff Ken Copeland said the quick action of the SWAT team saved lives, and I don't have any doubt that he's right. He believes, as I do, that many other residents and civic leaders in Newton County would have been lost without the team's rapid response and decisive decision-making.

Let me add special praise to Neosho Police Chief McCracken, who—as I mentioned—was the commanding officer on the scene. With shots still being heard inside the church, Chief McCracken acted without hesitation to lead the SWAT team in and bring to an end the armed threat, preventing the loss of additional life. Though the events leading up to this tragedy will forever be the object of speculation and mystery, one thing we can be sure of is that having skilled officers and decisive leadership were essential to bringing a quick end to it.

These men willfully put themselves in the line of fire to rescue their friends and neighbors. The team led by Chief McCracken consisted of Neosho Police Officer Cameron Kruse and Cpl. Donn Hall, Newton County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Chris Jennings, Sgt. David Trimble and Deputy Dale Brashers and Trooper "Corky" Burr of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

These are men of extraordinary valor, but several of their colleagues in the department are also worthy of mention as well. On March 16th of this year, Neosho City Police Sergeant Dan Cook tried to execute, what appeared at the time, a routine traffic stop. Unfortunately, the driver had a handgun ready and opened fire as Cook approached the car. Although Cook was hit in the arm, he returned to his vehicle and chased the assailant down for several miles. During the chase, one of his colleagues—Officer Michael Sharp—was wounded in the face. Another Missouri State Trooper, G. H. Hendrix, traded gunfire with the wanted man. Because of their determined pursuit, the man was later apprehended without further incident, arrested and booked on eight separate felony charges.

Each day our peace officers face these dangers and each day they confront the people who would do harm to law-abiding citizens. Each of these men is a dedicated public servant who knows how to do his job, and was not afraid to use his training and expertise to end the awful tragedies with which they were presented.

Facing a deranged gunman who has already shown the capacity to kill—and the willingness to kill some more—is a situation that requires cool heads and professional training. Not a single one of these law enforcement officers would call himself a hero. But here today, I will suggest that's exactly what they are.

To the praise already bestowed on them by the Governor, the state legislature, the Neosho City Council and county officials, I add a "well done and thank you" for your dedication to your profession and for putting your lives on the line in defense of your community.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that is designed to give comfort to the millions of American families who struggle with prostate cancer.

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Because of the way prostate cancer affects our society, awareness is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat and defeat it. With this resolution, Congress has an opportunity to lend its voice to the communities, families, and individuals who are fighting to find a cure for an illness that kills more than 27,000 men every year.

It is easy to get caught up in statistics when talking about massive health challenges like prostate cancer, and the numbers produced by this disease are indeed staggering. Over 200,000 men will be diagnosed in the United States this year. One in every six American males will have prostate cancer at some point during his life. Prostate cancer is the most common type of non-skin cancer in the country, and will kill approximately 27,000 men this year alone.

Twenty-seven thousand fewer husbands, fathers, uncles, best friends, and mentors because of prostate cancer, Madam Speaker. This is not a disease that we can afford to ignore.

Fortunately, we are not helpless in our fight against this killer. If caught early and treated correctly, prostate cancer can be managed and overcome. In fact, nearly all patients who identify that they have prostate cancer in its early stages survive and go on to live healthy adult lives.

The problem is that early-stage prostate cancer exhibits no symptoms. As a result, early and vigorous screening is absolutely critical for doctors to find the 27,000 American men who won't catch their prostate cancer early enough, and who will die as a result.

Screening will become an even more important part of our fight against prostate cancer as the baby boom generation comes of age. Males between the ages of 50 and 65 are particularly susceptible to prostate cancer, and this pool of men over 50 will only get larger in the near future. In today's United States, a man turns 50 years old about every fourteen seconds.

As a result, the aggregate risk to our society posed by prostate cancer will only rise as that huge swath of people born in the 1950s continues to age. Our fight against this killer will only become more challenging, Madam Speaker, even as we increase the quality of our screening, treatment, and research related to the disease.

That is why awareness will be so critical in the near future. The more people we make aware of the risks of prostate cancer, the better our chances of curing them before it is too late. National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is a vital part of this mission. Every year in September, prostate cancer advocates, survivors, patients, and policy leaders heighten awareness of this disease. This is not just a feel-good exercise, Madam Speaker. It saves lives and keeps families together.

In many ways, the growth in Federal research spending into this disease can be traced to the positive effects and outreach of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. A disease which once received $86 million for research is now a $466 million priority for medical researchers around the country. This huge success is due in large part to the tireless advocacy of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, working with so many partners in support of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

For the sixth year in a row, the United States Senate and the President have issued resolutions supporting National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The House of Representatives has never joined them, Madam Speaker, until today.

With the resolution I now introduce with my colleague Mr. LATHAM of Iowa, the people's House will finally be on record supporting the worthy goals of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Millions of American families around the country deserve the help of the

House of Representatives in their fight against this silent killer, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely and overdue resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I am writing regarding today's rollcall votes 865, H. Res. 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and 866, H. Res. 643, recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

Please accept my apologies as I was meeting with constituents in my district and was not able to cast my votes tonight. It was my intention to vote ''yes'' on both resolutions.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT PHILOMENA SCHOOL

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Philomena School for 100 years of educational excellence in Delaware County.

Located in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, St. Philomena opened its doors on September 4, 1907, making it one of Delaware County's oldest Catholic schools. Since that time, the school has provided four generations of quality Catholic education, touching the hearts and minds of countless children, and epitomizing the school's motto, ''Experience the Difference, Commit to the Future''.

I would like to recognize the school's pastor, Monsignor David Benz, and principal, Ms. Patricia Walsh, for their service and impassioned dedication to educating the students of the Saint Philomena School.

I would also like to recognize and extend my gratitude to Ms. McKenna, an alumna of the school who has devoted 45 years to teaching, 30 of which were as the 8th grade teacher at St. Philomena School.

I ask that everyone join me in congratulating St. Philomena School on 100 years of great education, recognizing its contribution to the community, and acknowledging the dedication of its staff and administrators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel to Washington for votes.

However, I want you to know I would have recorded ''yes'' votes for these recorded votes. They included: (1) H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and; H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CLIFTON J. JEFFERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former mayor, educator and businessman who dedicated his life to his hometown of Lynchburg, South Carolina. The town is dedicating a park in honor of the late Clifton J. Jefferson on October 6, 2007, and I believe it is fitting that the U.S. Congress honors his public service as well.

Clifton Jefferson was born in Lynchburg on September 10, 1923. Raised by his grandparents, John and Carrie Jefferson, Clifton attended Lynchburg public schools until he reached high school. At that time, he moved to Florence to attend Wilson High School, and upon graduation matriculated at South Carolina State College.

Clifton Jefferson didn't come from a wealthy family, and he had to perform odd jobs to help pay for school. But he had a tremendous work ethic and real rapport with his fellow students. They affectionately called him ''Jeff,'' and elected him president of the Senior class at South Carolina State. He earned a bachelors degree in agriculture in 1946, and then decided to move to Baltimore, Maryland where he pursued further studies at Howard University, Morgan State, and the University of Maryland. At the time, Jeff helped integrate the University of Maryland as its first black student. He stayed on in Baltimore for eight years, but returned home when he was needed to care for his ailing grandmother.

Back at home in Lynchburg, Clifton Jefferson worked in the Lee County Public School System for 32 years. He began as a classroom teacher, became an assistant principal at Fleming Elementary and Mt. Pleasant High School, and went on to become principal of Bishopville Junior High School. He also held positions as assistant director of Lee County Vocational School, now known as the Lee County Career & Technology Center, and as coordinator of the Old Ceta Program, now Project ACT. All the while, he owned and operated Jefferson Funeral Home in Lynchburg.

Breaking color barriers was a common theme of Clifton Jefferson's life. He was elected the first black mayor of Lynchburg, and served his community for 16 consecutive years in that role. Some of his major accomplishments included integrating the Lee County sheriff's department, the county court house, and various agencies. He also brought the first Head Start program to Lynchburg.

During his tenure, Mayor Jefferson was instrumental in investing in his town's infrastructure by improving the water, sewer, and drainage systems, creating two parks, and increasing the number of town employees to provide services to the community. He also established the first Christmas parade and magnolia festival in Lynchburg.

Clifton Jefferson was an active member of Warren Chapel United Methodist Church, and held various positions on boards in Lee County and in South Carolina. His memberships included: the South Carolina Conference of Black Mayors, National Conference of Black Mayors, the World Conference of Black Mayors, South Carolina Municipal Association, Lee County Teachers Association, South Carolina Teachers Association, National Teachers Association, NAACP, Lee County Chapter of SC State Alumni, South Carolina Morticians Association, National Morticians Association, Florence Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the National Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

He was married to the former Gwendolyn Weaver, and the couple had six children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work of Clifton J. Jefferson. I also commend the Town of Lynchburg for honoring their late mayor's great work by naming a park in his memory. This will serve as a lasting tribute for a gentle giant, who loved his hometown and succeeded in making it a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PASADENA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pasadena Symphony, which will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on October 13, 2007—the beginning of the 2007–2008 season. Since 1928, the Pasadena Symphony has demonstrated musical talent, stable leadership, and remarkable service to the community.

In 1922, Will Rounds, Director of Instrumental Music in the Pasadena public school system and former member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, initiated a movement for a local civic orchestra. The Pasadena Civic Orchestra Association was officially developed in 1928 by a group of civic-minded citizens and Reginald Bland, the orchestra's first director. Originally formed to promote free music of all forms to the public and to provide young aspiring musicians an opportunity to train through practical experience, the orchestra has transformed from a group of volunteer and student musicians into a nationally-recognized orchestra that has won worldwide acclaim.

Much of the symphony's success can be attributed to its stable leadership. Since its founding, the orchestra has had only four music directors. In 1936, Dr. Richard Lert began his 36 year tenure as director and established a scholarship fund for students who performed in the orchestra. With Dr. Lert at the helm, the orchestra's name was changed to the Pasadena Symphony Association in 1954; in 1955, the symphony became a founding member of the Los Angeles Symphony

League and was recognized with Metropolitan Status by the American Symphony Orchestra League in 1968. The Women's Committee, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, was formed in 1957 to assist with fundraising. From 1972 to 1984 the orchestra's reputation continued to grow under the leadership of Daniel Lewis. The orchestra received several national awards, including five American Society of Composers and Publishers awards for adventuresome programming. Mr. Lewis also oversaw the founding of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra which is considered one of the best youth orchestras in the world. Since 1984, Jorge Mester has brilliantly led the Pasadena Symphony Association, expanding the number of concerts per season and recording its first compact disc in 1994.

Beyond its musical achievements, the association admirably serves the community through educational outreach. Committed to making music accessible to the public, the symphony runs an admission-free Musical Circus for families with young children and offers Concerts and Lessons to Enrich Families (C.L.E.F.). Believing that music belongs in the classroom as well as the concert hall, the symphony partnered with Pasadena's public elementary schools to found Tempo!, a curriculum based program that has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts. Through the Mentor Program, in which middle and high school musicians can meet with Pasadena Symphony Association professionals and the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra, the symphony fosters our next generation of musicians.

It is my great pleasure to honor the Pasadena Symphony Association on its 80th anniversary. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate, along with my remarkably diverse constituents, Hispanic Heritage Month. I am grateful that September 15th through October 15th has been set aside to commemorate the unique cultural legacy and the significant contributions that the diverse people of Hispanic descent have made to the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, this heritage is part and parcel of our shared American birthright. It is only fitting that we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the 43 million Hispanic Americans in this country, people who are making their mark in popular culture, business, athletics and politics. Theirs is the American Dream—a deep-seated belief that hard work can bring a better life and a brighter future for our children.

I wish to take this opportunity to honor some outstanding individuals living and working in the San Francisco Bay area. KQED, a nationally recognized public broadcaster, has named the following six outstanding individuals 2007 Latino Heritage Local Heroes. These hard-working citizens represent the best of both worlds—preserving their personal and family heritage while contributing great things to the community we all share.

Cío Hernández has brought her language and leadership skills to the youth of Marin County. As the Bilingual Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner for Teen Clinic of Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, Cío is a youth group leader who inspires and motivates adolescents who want to make a difference in their community.

Martín Mora is a professional firefighter in the city of San Jose. In his 12 years with the San Jose Fire Department, he has promoted safety and awareness throughout the community. Additionally, Martín continues his family's legacy of dedicated volunteering by assisting children, women, and families in the Bay Area and Nicaragua.

Guillermo ''Memo'' Morantes is a longtime community volunteer in San Mateo County, with a special passion for education. As a member of the San Mateo County Board of Education, he continues the fight he has long been waging to provide all our children with the kind of quality education they deserve.

A Health and Nutrition teacher at Dover Elementary School in West Contra Costa County, Tony Ramirez imparts invaluable wisdom about healthy living and environmental preservation to our next generation of leaders. Tony has incorporated outdoors hands-on education into the curriculum, instilling the value of preserving natural habitats such as the local watershed, Wildcat Creek, and teaching students of their responsibility to maintain a healthy creek.

Mary Helen Rocha is another tireless advocate for children and families in our community. From bus monitor to den mother and Girl Scout leader, she has done it all, and currently works as Program Director for The Perinatal Council and coordinates the Antioch First 5 Center permanent facility, which serves families with children under 5 years of age.

As a master of the art of capoeira, a Brazilian martial arts and dance hybrid, Márcia Treidler, known to the arts community as Mestranda Márcia Cigarra, is working to spread hope and opportunity through the art form she loves. Márcia is the founder and Artistic Director of ABADÁ-Capoeira San Francisco (ACSF), which is dedicated to using capoeira as a vehicle to improve and enrich disadvantaged communities and the lives of people from all backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, it is not enough to celebrate this community one month out of every year. All of our Hispanic American friends and neighbors deserve the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their children. They are the driving force behind the efforts of this Democratic Congress to bring a new direction to America—the real people who benefit from progressive legislation like increases to the minimum wage and programs that make college more affordable.

Hispanic Heritage month is more than a cultural celebration, Madam Speaker, as vibrant and fascinating as that culture may be. It is an opportunity to see the children for whom we have just increased funding for math and science education, funding that will give all Americans a chance to compete in the global economy. It shines a spotlight on the citizens who lack adequate health care, despite working full time. Hispanic Heritage month is certainly about the past, Madam Speaker, and it is an honorable past worth remembering. Yet this month, let us also look toward the future, and work toward building a better tomorrow for all American families.

HONORING HENRIETTA, COUNTESS DE HOERNLE'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle, as she celebrates her 95th birthday. She is one of the most distinguished and accomplished philanthropists in south Florida, and I am proud to recognize her impact on our community. Her record of service to those in need makes her a truly distinguished American.

During her lifetime, the Countess has worked tirelessly to support worthwhile causes benefiting young adults, the poor, the needy and the ill. She retains a personal philosophy of using her financial resources to help others, believing that she would like to see the ''fruits of her labor'' while she is able. She has been instrumental in advancing educational opportunities for the young, art and cultural opportunities for area residents, and medical opportunities for everyone. Currently, she serves on six boards in the Palm Beach area, including the boards of the Caldwell Theatre and the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

One of the first charitable efforts made by the Countess and her husband was to Boca Raton Community Hospital. Subsequently the Countess has worked in support of many health organizations, including the American Red Cross, Hospice, the Habilitation Center, and the Mae Volen Senior Center. The Countess then turned her attention to the needs of south Florida youth. The Countess has also been instrumental in helping the Haven, a facility providing a home for neglected and abused children, St. Joan of Arc School for its expansion and new library, the College of Boca Raton (now Lynn University) for its Lecture Hall, and Spanish River Community High School for a long-awaited theater.

Other organizations with which the Countess has been actively involved include the Association of Retarded Citizens, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Arthritis Foundation, Boca Ballet Theatre, Boca Raton Historical Society, Boca Raton International Club, Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park, The Children's Museum, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Northwood University, Palm Beach Community College, The Palm Beach International Film Festival, Police Athletic League, United Way, the Youth Activity Center and ZONTA Club of Boca Raton. She has received awards from more than 230 charitable organizations and is universally recognized as a major philanthropist.

Henrietta, Countess de Hoernle enjoys being able to give a helping hand to all in need—believing that's what her life is all about. She sets an example for everyone in our community to follow, and I am proud to recognize her today on her 95th birthday.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RICHARD KAZMAIER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Richard William Kazmaier, a native of Maumee, Ohio in the Ninth Congressional District and winner of the 1951 Heisman Trophy as the most outstanding player in college football.

Mr. Kazmaier will be honored at a special dinner ceremony tomorrow evening at Maumee High School, where he will donate to his alma mater a replica of his Heisman Trophy for display in a specially-made trophy case.

After graduating from Maumee High School in 1948, Mr. Kazmaier led Princeton University to back-to-back undefeated seasons in 1950 and 1951. He also led the Nation in total offense in 1951, operating as the lone back in the Tigers' single-wing formation. He received more Heisman votes than any other winner up to that time, and he finished more than 1,000 points ahead of the runnerup. He made the cover of Time Magazine.

And then Richard Kazmaier made a life-changing decision. He turned down an offer to play professionally for the Chicago Bears and decided instead to enter Harvard Business School, choosing the Ivy League over the National Football League.

After serving 3 years in the U.S. Navy, attaining the rank of lieutenant, Mr. Kazmaier went into business as president of Kazmaier and Associates, a sports marketing and financial services company. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1966. He later served on the board of trustees at Princeton University. He was a director of the Knight Foundation on Intercollegiate Athletics. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the President's Council on Physical Fitness, and served as its chairman.

Richard Kazmaier never forgot his hometown, either. The Richard Kazmaier Scholarship Program at Maumee High School has awarded more than $153,000 in scholarships to student athletes over the past 17 years.

Madam Speaker, it is entirely appropriate that Richard Kazmaier, a two-time All-America at Princeton, will be feted in his hometown, because just last year Maumee gained acclaim as an All-America City. Congratulations are in order for Richard Kazmaier and also for the city of Maumee.

REMEMBERING THE USS ''WAHOO''

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men who lost their lives when the USS *Wahoo* went down in the Western Pacific in 1943. A memorial ceremony to the 80 crew members will be held at the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum and Park on October 11, the 64th anniversary of the vessel's disappearance.

The USS *Wahoo* was one of the Navy's most valuable units during World War II. The submarine began its first patrol in August 1942 in the Carolines. During its first 6 patrols the submarine was responsible for sinking 27 ships and damaging 2 more and was granted the Presidential Unit Citation for its 3rd patrol. The submarine came under attack on its 7th patrol in the La Perouse Strait between the Japanese island of Hokkaido and the Russian island of Sakhalin and went down on October 11, 1943. According to Japanese military reports the submarine was sunk after several hours of a combined air and sea attack involving depth charges and aerial bombings.

Commander Dudley Morton was the skipper of the USS *Wahoo* when it went down. His relatives and the relatives of other crew members led the search to find the USS *Wahoo*. Through a cooperative effort between the United States, Japan, and Russia, the USS *Wahoo* was located.

In addition to Commander Morton, 79 other crew members lost their lives that day. They include the uncle of my constituent Joann Fisher, Edwin Eldon Ostrander. The names of the remaining crew members are: Floyd Anders, Joseph Andrews, Robert Bailey, Arthur Bair, Jimmie Berg, Chester Browning, Donald Brown, Clifford Bruce, James Buckley, William Burgan, John Campbell, William Carr, James Carter, William Davison, Lynwood Deaton, Joseph Erdey, Eugene Fiedler, Oscar Finkelstein, Walter Galli, Cecil Garmon, George Garrett, Jr., Wesley Gerlacher, Richard Goss, Hiram Greene, William Hand, Leon Hartman, Dean Hayes, Richie Henderson, William Holmes, Van House, Howard Howe, Olin Jacobs, Robert Jasa, Juan Jayson, Kindred Johnson, Dalton Keeter, Wendell Kemp, Paul Kessock, Paul Krebs, Eugene Kirk, Arthur Lape, Clarence Lindemann, Robert Logue, Walter Lynch, Stuart MacAlman, Thomas Mac Gowen, Albert Magyar, Jesus Manalisay, Paul Mandjiak, Edward Massa, Ernest Maulding, George Maulding, Thomas McGill, Jr., Howard McGilton, Donald McSpadden, Max Mills, George Misch, Percy Neel, Forest O'Brien, Roy O'Neal, Paul Phillips, Juano Rennels, Henry Renno, Enoch Seal, Jr., Alfred Simonetti, Verne Skjonsby, Donald Smith, George Stevens, William Terrell, William Thomas, Ralph Tyler, Joe Vidick, Ludwig Wach, Wilbur Waldron, Norman Ware, William White, Kenneth Whipp, and Roy Witting.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and honor these brave men that gave their lives for our Nation. May we always remember their sacrifice and revere their memory.

A SALUTE TO ROY HAYNES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, as Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus and Chairman of the 23rd Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Jazz Forum and Concert, I rise to salute the lifetime achievements of one of the most distinguished jazz artists in American music history, Roy Haynes.

One of the most recorded drummers in the history of jazz, Haynes has played in a wide range of styles ranging from swing and bebop to jazz fusion and avant-garde jazz in his 60-year career. He has a highly expressive, personal style (''Snap Crackle'' was a nickname given him in the 1950s) and is known to foster a deep engagement with his band mates.

Roy Haynes was born in Boston on March 13, 1925, and, like so many of his contemporaries became keenly interested in music, and in particular, jazz, at an early age. Primarily self-taught, he began to work in Boston in 1942 with musicians like Charlie Christian, Tom Brown, Sabby Lewis, and Pete Brown. In the summer of 1945, he got a call to join legendary bandleader Luis Russell (responsible for much of Louis Armstrong's musical backing from 1929 to 1933) to play for the dancers at New York's legendary Savoy Ballroom. When not traveling with Russell, the young drummer spent much time on Manhattan's 52nd Street and uptown at Minton's, the legendary incubator of bebop, soaking up the scene.

Over the next 30 years, Haynes would go on to play with virtually every jazz musician of note. He was Lester Young's drummer from 1947 to 1949, worked with Bud Powell and Miles Davis in 1949, and became Charlie Parker's drummer of choice from 1949 to 1953. He toured the world with Sarah Vaughan from 1954 to 1959, did numerous extended gigs with Thelonious Monk in 1959–60, and made eight recordings with Eric Dolphy in 1960–61. Haynes worked extensively with Stan Getz from 1961 to 1965, played and recorded with the John Coltrane Quartet from 1963 to 1965, has collaborated with Chick Corea since 1968, and with Pat Metheny during the '90s. Metheny was featured on Haynes' previous Dreyfus release Te Vou! (voted by NAIRD as Best Contemporary Jazz Record of 1996). He's been an active bandleader from the late '50s to the present, featuring artists in performance and on recordings like Phineas Newborn, Booker Ervin, Roland Kirk, George Adams, Hannibal Marvin Peterson, Ralph Moore and Donald Harrison. A perpetual top three drummer in the Downbeat Readers Poll Awards, he won the Best Drummer honors in 1996 (and many years since), and in that year received the prestigious French Chevalier des l'Ordres Artes et des Lettres. In 2002, Roy Haynes' album Birds of a Feather, his tribute to the immortal Charlie ''Bird'' Parker, was nominated for a Best Jazz Instrumental Album Grammy.

Of his style and music Haynes' says: ''I structure pieces like riding a horse . . . you pull a rein here, you tighten it up here, you loosen it there. I'm still sitting in the driver's seat, so to speak. I let it loose, I let it go, I see where it's going and what it feels like. Sometimes I take it out, sometimes I'll be polite, nice and let it move and breathe—always in the pocket and with feeling. So the music is tight but loose.''

Haynes continued, ''I am constantly practicing in my head. In fact, a teacher in school once sent me to the principal, because I was drumming with my hands on the desk in class. My father used to say I was just nervous. I'm always thinking rhythms, drums. When I was very young I used to practice a lot; not any special thing, but just practice playing. Now I'm like a doctor. When he's operating on you, he's practicing. When I go to my gigs, that's my practice. I may play something that I never heard before or maybe that you never heard before. It's all a challenge.''

''I deal with sounds. I'm full of rhythm, man. I feel it. I think summer, winter, fall, spring,

hot, cold, fast and slow—colors. But I don't analyze it. I've been playing professionally over 50 years, and that's the way I do it. I always surprise myself. The worst surprise is when I can't get it to happen. But it usually comes out. I don't play for a long period, and then I'm like an animal, a lion or tiger locked in its cage, and when I get out I try to restrain myself. I don't want to overplay. I like the guys to trade, and I just keep it moving, and spread the rhythm, as Coltrane said. Keep it moving, keep it crisp.''

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to offer this salute to Roy Haynes as a true Modern Jazz Giant and a living national treasure and the embodiment of the values and principles set forth in H. Con. Res. 57, the joint resolution passed on John Coltrane's birthday 20 years ago, which has become the gold standard rubric for the proper recognition of jazz and its practitioners.

IN MEMORY OF PHIL FRANK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable journalists, cartoonist Phil Frank. Phil died of brain cancer this month, but not before leaving an enduring legacy to the people of Marin County, where he lived, and to those of the San Francisco Bay Area and across North America.

Admired by other cartoonists, loved by his family and fans, and appreciated by local historians, Phil was the creator of a host of cartoon characters, the most famous being Farley, a San Francisco reporter on a newspaper named The Daily Requirement. Farley's world was peopled by an assortment of politicians and animals, including Bruce, the raven; Orwell T. Catt, feral feline; a collection of bears that ran the Fog City Dumpster and avidly supported the San Francisco Giants; and of course, the high-class band of feral pigs in dark glasses, who traveled Marin County in BMWs, led by their guru, De Pork Chopra.

With these characters and others, Phil targeted daily events in the Bay Area, including the actions of every San Francisco mayor from Dianne Feinstein to Gavin Newson. Phil's co-worker Carl Nolte, a staff writer at the Chronicle, where the Farley comic ran almost every day for 32 years, remembers a good example. When Mayor Frank Jordan once appointed a lowly politician to a high office in his administration, Phil's comic strip showed the cartoon mayor appointing one of the feral cats to run the municipal aquarium.

''But he was never mean-spirited,'' said Nolte. ''He was humorous in the best sense of political humor.''

Fellow cartoonist Kathryn Lemieux of Tomales agreed. ''He could poke fun at someone without being cruel,'' she said. According to Lemieux, Phil was also a generous mentor to other artists, always willing to share his support.

He also shared his talent with innumerable organizations all over the Bay Area, drawing a t-shirt design, adding a cartoon to a city mailing, or illustrating a California park system notice. Suzanne Dunwell, who lived for a while on a Sausalito houseboat not far from Phil's floating studio in the pilot house of the ferry City of Seattle, recalls the first annual Humming Toadfish Festival, which she started. Phil designed the t-shirt, and after the first ones were printed, Dunwell gifted one to Phil. He graciously thanked her, then placed the shirt in a drawer brimming with Phil Frank-designed t-shirts from other charitable groups.

Phil was generous not only with his talent, but with his time. A self-educated historian, he was an important figure in the Sausalito Historical Society, and acted as exhibitions coordinator for the Bolinas Museums' History Collection. ''He knew the history of places from the human side,'' explained Nolte.

One of his most popular cartoons, published in Sausalito's weekly newspaper, exposes the persona of his hometown with well-intended humor. It shows the Sausalito Fire and Rescue squad being called to the downtown park to assist a 90-year-old resident who had fallen off her platform shoes and couldn't get up by herself because her jeans were too tight.

Phil could make us laugh at ourselves. He was one of those genuinely nice guys. He lived with enthusiasm. He made us smile. He is already missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 20, 2007—Rollcall vote 889, on agreeing to the Neugebauer (TX) amendment—H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007—I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall vote 890, on passage—H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007—I would have voted ''nay.''

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPERFUND REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce, along with my colleague FRANK PALLONE, the ''Superfund Reinvestment Act,'' which would reauthorize the corporate taxes that fund the Superfund trust fund. This bill will reestablish the polluter pays principle and our commitment to cleaning up the Nation's most hazardous sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund program was created in 1980 to provide money to clean up the Nation's worst hazardous waste sites where the party responsible for polluting was out of business or could not be identified. Before they expired in 1995, the money for the Superfund trust fund came mainly from taxes on the polluters themselves. The program has contributed to the cleanup of over 1,000 sites around the country. Because Congress has not reauthorized the taxes, the burden of funding cleanups of toxic waste sites now falls on the shoulders of taxpaying Americans. Reauthorizing the Superfund tax would ensure that polluters—not the American public—pay to restore public health.

Superfund sites contain toxic contaminants that have been detected in drinking water wells, creeks and rivers, backyards, playgrounds, and streets. Communities impacted by these sites can face restrictions on water use, gardening and recreational activities as well as economic losses as property values decline due to contaminated land. In the worst cases, families are at risk of health problems such as cardiac impacts, infertility, low birth weight, birth defects, leukemia, and respiratory difficulties.

Until they expired in 1995, the Superfund taxes generated around $1.7 billion a year to clean up these hazardous areas. The ''Superfund Reinvestment Act'' would simply reinstate the taxes as they were before they expired. This will provide a stable source of funding to continue cleaning up sites around the country as well as give the EPA the tools it needs to clean up sites and then recover the costs from liable parties who do not undertake the work themselves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to strengthen the Superfund program and ensure that it continues to help keep our communities and our families safe, healthy, and economically secure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. ''CHIP'' PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 876 to H.R. 1852. I would have voted ''yes.''

SUPPORT FOR THE JENA, LOUISIANA 6

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a pressing issue that plagues our Nation, the injustice that is experienced by African-Americans in our criminal justice system. On September 20, 2007, rallies were held across the Nation in honor of what we have come to know as the ''Jena 6.'' The Jena 6 is a group of young African-American men who were charged with attempted murder for a school yard fight with a Caucasian male in Jena, Louisiana.

Before the school yard fight that put the 6 African American students in jail, 3 Caucasian students hung nooses from a tree on in the school. These students were suspended from school but never were charged with any crime. Another Caucasian student involved in a different school yard fight was charged with battery and was placed on probation.

Yet, when the Jena 6 were involved in a fight injuring one of the Caucasian students, the 6 high school students were charged with attempted second-degree murder and other serious assault charges.

Prior to the incident, LaSalle Parish Attorney Reed Walter was quoted as telling students who protested the displays of nooses at their school that they should stop complaining about ''innocent pranks'' and that he could ''end their lives with the stroke of a pen.'' It appears he has attempted to do just this in the case of these 6 students.

The inflated charges against the Jena 6 could lead to years in prison and a lifetime of trying to rebuild their lives after they are finally released.

Let me be clear, I do not condone the actions of the Jena 6 in any way; I believe that they should be punished. However, the punishment should fit the actual crime. It is clear that these 6 students were treated differently from their Caucasian counterparts. I can only conclude that the harsher sentences for the Jena 6 appear to be based on the color of their skin and that is why they have become a symbol of the gross racial inequality that exists in our criminal justice system.

The Jena 6 have brought to light an issue that is of grave concern, people should not be charged with crimes based on the color of their skin, rather, they should be charged based on action and action alone.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask that this Congress not turn a blind eye to the Jena 6. Rather, this Congress should take immediate action to ensure that justice is being equally applied to all Americans and correct the racial disparities that haunt our courtrooms and prisons.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REAUTHORIZING THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge the timely reauthorization of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act.

Unless the President signs the bipartisan, bicameral conference report that will be sent to him before the end of this fiscal year, the State Children's Health Insurance Program will fail to be funded in a timely manner.

As a result, several states will experience immediate budget shortages and may be unable to cover the health care expenses of thousands of uninsured children.

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the Nation. Twenty-five percent of Texas kids have no health insurance.

The Federal Government and executive branch are in a position to help by refunding SCHIP so that states can enroll uninsured children into the program. These are children of the working poor.

Madam Speaker, I represent an urban area, and many of my constituents live in poverty. They face tough decisions regarding shift work, child- and dependent care options, transportation challenges, and even how to afford healthy meals for their families. Many are the working poor.

My constituents depend on SCHIP funds for a continuity of health care for their children to which they would not otherwise have access. I am gravely concerned about how they will be affected, should federal funds suddenly dry up.

For some, it could be a matter of life or death. For my constituents, I urge Congress and the President to work together to protect this valuable program. The Congressional Black Caucus is dedicated to this issue, and I thank the Chair for bringing attention to the health of our Nation's children.

EULOGY FOR SADIE MAE GROVE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, Rev. Bishop, it is a privilege to be invited to honor and celebrate the life of Sadie Mae Grove at her homegoing today from Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio, September 21, 2007. Thank you all for allowing me to participate. In this church, we can all feel the love she shared with us as we comfort one another at this time of great bereavement.

Once in a while, human beings gain a glimpse of heaven in the people we meet. Sadie Grove was such a person.

She was loving, joyful, strong, kind, generous. And she was wise. To her beloved daughter Louise, lifelong friend Ada Mae McQueen, chosen brothers Freddie and Booker, precious granddaughters Natasha and Cassandra, great-grandchildren Tyrin and Deiondre, blessed family, friends and colleagues—our community extends its deepest sympathy. Grief is such a heavy load. Believe me, as I know from personal experience, Sadie's strength will help carry you now. Rev. Bishop, Sadie drew enormous strength in knowing you would help carry her home today. She is grateful that we are all here at this moment.

In life, some persons are of such strength and texture, the power of their personhood sets a standard of character, not just for their family, but for the broader community. Sadie was a woman of character. Our community has been shaped and imbued with her nature—smiling, caring, building, nurturing others, all of us—a woman of deep faith, abiding hope, and selfless charity. In some faiths, a smile is regarded as a charity. Surely, angels of all persuasions welcome Sadie today as we recall her welcoming smile, extending from ear to ear. She gave us her warm, encouraging hugs, and her gusto, guts, and grace.

Sadie did not lead an easy life. Yet she took joy and gave joy in her journey. She was a woman from the working class of people who had to make her own way. Can you imagine the back-breaking discipline it took for a woman to work for 30 years in the old Jeep paint shop, not the new one . . . on her feet, day in and day out, many times working overtime, working with mainly men when she began. She had to be one of the few women with that experience. Then, due to her skills and personality, she moved to the UAW job training facility at the Jeep unit of the United Auto Workers Local 12. It was there I first met her with now Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken. Imagine all the lives she touched, helping people transition from auto manufacturing to other fields as the bad economy that has plagued us yielded more terminations and layoffs. She assisted her co-workers, day after day. How hard it must have been to draw the strength to touch each life, one after the other, to give people hope. She helped lead them to a new road forward. That is what Sadie did.

Sadie effectively connected to the world beyond her family—she was a full citizen. She embraced local, state, and national politics. I can't remember a time when Sadie wasn't there—at NAACP, the Fraternal Order of Police, The Perry Burroughs Democratic Club, the United Auto Workers, the Elks, and as a steward of her cherished church, Mt. Pilgrim. She was a member of the Senior Usher Board #1. I thought number one meant she was the most senior, for we in Congress respect seniority, but in any case she was #1 to all of us. She was a pillar of this church. Where would our community be without this church community? Imagine Toledo without this church. There would be a huge vacuum here. She helped fill that space. I can still see her scurrying to greet me whenever I visited this church. For how many other visitors did she do that? She always waited for me in that back hall. It was there she first shared with me her dream for the housing development for this church and she lived to know it was completed. The treasurer of your church just told me that the $1.7 million addition the church accomplished was to have been paid in 15 years. Sadie headed the stewardship committee, and the loan was paid off in 5 years and 7 months. Yes, you and we, could depend on Sadie.

Sadie made us strong just by being with us. How blessed we all have been to have known her and shared her life. May her family, friends, and our entire community be grateful for her life and, in her memory, may you be given Godspeed in the days and years ahead.

A poem by Nancy Wood entitled ''Earth Prayers'' brings us comfort as we honor the life of Sadie Grove:

A long time I have lived with you
And now we must be going
Separately to be together.

Perhaps I shall be the wind
To blur your smooth waters
So that you do not see your face too much.

Perhaps I shall be the star
To guide your uncertain wings so that you have direction in the night.

Perhaps I shall be the fire
To separate your thoughts
So that you do not give up.

Perhaps I shall be the rain
To open up the earth
So that your seed may fall.

Perhaps I shall be the stream
To play a song on the rock
So that you are not alone.

Perhaps I shall be a new mountain
So that you always have a home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, I had a meeting at the White House and was unable to make it to the Capitol for one vote. I would have voted ''yea'' in favor of ''The Food and

Drug Administration Amendments Bill'' (H.R. 3580).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 3580, I would have supported this legislation. Unfortunately, I was meeting with the President of the United States during the time the vote was held.

RECOGNIZING THE FORT PIERCE ELKS LODGE 1520

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize the members of the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge 1520 in Fort Pierce, FL, for their contributions to our service men and women and to congratulate the Lodge for the commendation they have received within the Elks community.

Over the past 3 years, the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge has implemented an outstanding veteran's services program. Through their overseas military outreach program, ''Operation Desert Elk',' the Lodge collects various sundry items and creates care packages for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. These packages provide a touch of home for our brave soldiers who are serving in such hostile environments. To date, over 1,400 packages valued at over $50,000 have been mailed overseas.

At home, the Lodge provides ongoing support to our hospitalized veterans at the West Palm Beach, FL, Veteran's Affairs Medical Center and at local State nursing homes. Clothing, books, and board games as well as monetary donations to support recreational therapy programs are provided on a continual basis. The Lodge has also adopted veterans in nursing homes and provided visitation, greeting cards and meals.

I am honored to recognize the exceptional individuals who make up the membership of the Fort Pierce Elks Lodge 1520 and the incredible services they provide for our service men and veterans.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, a little over twelve years ago, on September 13, 1995, Clinton Administration officials played a critical role in addressing a pressing issue in the Balkans and Europe. With American-led mediation, our longstanding friend, ally and strategic partner Greece signed an Interim Accord at the United Nations in New York with the newly-established former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a state that emerged from the disintegration of former Yugoslavia.

This agreement paved the way for the normalization of relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Following the signing of this Interim Accord, Greece, like the United States, strongly supported the newly established state, both politically and economically. Greece fully backed FYROM's aspirations to join the key institutions of the European and Euro-Atlantic community, and Greece became the number one investor in that country, with $1.1 billion invested capital.

Unfortunately, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not fully reciprocated these gestures and I am concerned about unacceptable propaganda impugning Greece's history and cultural heritage. It is critical that Skopje address this propaganda and show increased flexibility during the ongoing U.N. negotiations, with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution on the name issue. Resolution of this issue is not just a bilateral issue with Greece, but has regional and international dimensions.

As Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have been working in a bipartisan fashion with the subcommittee's ranking member, Congressman ELTON GALLEGLY to support efforts to resolve this long-standing issue, including introducing House Resolution 356. This resolution expresses the sense of this House that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) should not violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between the FYROM and Greece regarding ''hostile activities or propaganda'' and should work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for the FYROM.

House Resolution 356 already has 73 cosponsors and I would urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to cosponsor this resolution and urge authorities in Skopje to join Athens and meet their obligations deriving from the U.S.-brokered Interim Accord.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SPIRIT OF JOYCE SNOWFEATHER MAHANEY AS THE 20TH AMERICAN INDIAN INTERTRIBAL ASSOCIATION POWWOW IS CELEBRATED

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and spirit of Joyce Snowfeather Mahaney who, on June 23, 2006, passed from this life at the age of 59 years and ''started her westward journey.''

Joyce Mahaney was born January 31st, 1947 on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota of Chippewa parents, Alexander and Mary Frederick. Joyce was given the Indian Name ''Snowfeather''' as she was born during a snowstorm. Her father died when she was a toddler and her mother and other tribal members raised her. Inquisitive and always proud of her American Indian heritage, Joyce was well-schooled in the Tribal Customs and Laws. After completing high school on the Reservation, she attended Minot State College where she completed a Baccalaureate Degree in Education with a Minor in Library Science and Sociology. While in college, she met Russell Mahaney whom she later married, and they eventually moved to Toledo, Ohio, where she remained for over 30 years and raised her family.

Although Joyce moved from the Reservation, she didn't leave it. She continued to have close contact with elders, relatives and friends. Throughout her life she supported her Native American heritage, becoming a spokesperson for all tribes of Native Americans in the State of Ohio and in Michigan and Indiana, in preserving the culture and traditions. Joyce was designated as a Pipe Carrier from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota which gave her permission from the elders of the tribe to conduct special religious and cultural services, including praying with Native Americans on death row. It is one of the highest honors provided to a member of a tribe.

In an effort to preserve all tribal cultures, Joyce established the American Indian Intertribal Association (AIIA) of Toledo in 1988. It was the first organization of its kind in Ohio and the Midwest, and she served as the Director until her death. Her daughter then assumed leadership. The primary mission of the organization is to preserve the Indian culture by conducting traditional pow-wows, presenting programs and educational opportunities, providing culturally sensitive awareness in drug and alcohol prevention and participating in cultural events within the community as well as training through workshops and seminars. A further goal is to educate the general public about Native American cultural traditions, the desecration of Indian burial sites, and the exploitation of sacred ceremonies and cultural identities. In addition, the AIIA provides workshops in the schools and with local community organizations to maintain open contact with social service agencies and participate in the community. Joyce worked with social service agencies in applying the Indian Child Welfare Act by ensuring that Indian children were placed in homes where they would be exposed to their culture.

Joyce was later instrumental in assisting in the expansion of the American Indian Intertribal Association's branch office in Cleveland as well as other Indian centers in Akron, Michigan and Indiana. Although she was Chippewa, she was an advocate for all members of all Tribes and Nations. Throughout her life, Joyce served as an activist in the preservation of her cultural heritage and traditions. She was active in the preservation of sacred Indian burial grounds in Maumee, Ohio in the 1990's and frequently battled with archeologists and museums throughout Ohio regarding the application of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Repatriation Act) laws and the handling of Native American remains. Joyce was instrumental in the development of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers in which a stone monument was placed in remembrance of the warriors who lost their lives in the battle of 1794. There is currently activity underway by the City of Maumee to name a bridge in her honor at the sight of the Fallen Timbers Monument in which the Annual Summer Solstice Ceremony is held.

Joyce is a published author of two books and was working on a third at the time of her

death. She received an award for her poetry at the Multicultural Arts Show in Toledo in 1997. The books include Prairie Winds (1995) and Spirit of Dakota (1999), a collection of prose and poetry about Native American culture, spirituality, and life on an Indian reservation.

Joyce was held in high esteem by community and elected leaders, and throughout the years her efforts were recognized. In 1989, she received a proclamation from Governor Celeste declaring May 1–7, 1989 as American Indian Week. Additional recognition came for her establishment of the American Indian Intertribal Association; assisting in the preservation of the Indian burial mounds, the lands and the culture; the assistance in the erection of a historical marker at the site of Fallen Timbers National Park site in which she was also instrumental in the purchase of the battle sight; and her service to the Native American Advisory Council. She was honored by the City of Maumee when she led the presentation as a Native American representative in the ''All American City'' competition in Anaheim California in June 2006, which was 2 weeks before her death.

As a result of her work, Joyce has left a legacy for Ohio and the Midwest in the preservation of the Native Culture. The annual Pow Wow which will be celebrating it's 20th year this year, has attracted several thousand Native American and non-Native Americans to teach and remind us of the importance of the Native American heritage. It's 20th anniversary year with its theme ''Honoring the Elders'' seems a fitting time to memorialize its Founding Mother.

Joyce Snowfeather Mahaney— Activist, Teacher, Warrior, and Pioneer—will long be remembered for the contributions and legacy she left. Throughout her life, she walked the Red Road. Her own words echo in fitting tribute to this extraordinary woman.

WALK BESIDE ME

You are the warrior and the hunter and I am the humble power behind the spear who will always guide your shield to defend you. And you are the sister I met near the stream.

We sat on the rocks facing the morning sun and cleansed our garments together.

When you look into my soul, you will find the existence of a very quiet and gentle spirit.

Listen to my footsteps. If you hear the sound of refined pebbles falling softly on Mother Earth, it is I.

My spirit can always be found traveling north and south. I follow Grandfather and travel the red road.

The wind blows strong, but my steps never falter, as the sacred pipe protects me.

Come—Walk beside me. Together we have the power to change the world. For I am not your enemy, I am your strength.

HONORING TINA FIELDER-GIBSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tina Fielder-Gibson. She is being honored by the Flint Schools Youth Projects for her contributions to the students of the Flint community at a dinner on September 27th in Burton, Michigan.

After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School, Tina continued her education at the University of Michigan—Flint. She graduated from that institution in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She started working for the Genesee County Sheriffs office in 1986 as a Corrections Officer. She has worked on the Jails Transaction Team, was the first woman to work in the Jail's Commissary, she worked as a Classification Officer and was the first woman elected Union President.

Sheriff Robert Pickell created the position of Administrative Assistant when he became Genesee County Sheriff and Tina was tapped to fill the position in 1999. She acts as a community representative and works with various organizations to ensure the next generation is prepared to assume the leadership of our community. In this capacity she arranges tours for the Youth Projects Program and area churches, allowing students ages 12–16 to talk to inmates and hear their stories.

Tina is active with many organizations including the Fetal Infant Mortality Committee, the Hate Crimes Task Force, the Interagency Collaborative GISD, the Elder Abuse Task Force/until Disciplinary Team, YWCA Domestic Violence Committee, East Side and North Central Weed and Seed Programs, Strong Families Safe Children, and Safe Schools Healthy Students—Flint Schools. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta—Flint Alumnae Chapter and is a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

She has held the following positions: Chair Black Caucus 1985–1995, Vice-Chair Genesee County Democratic Party 1998–2000, Chair Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint 1998–Present, Chair National Council on Alcoholism and Addiction 2006–2007, Vice President Sisters United Incorporated 2001–Present, President AFSCME 2259 Genesee County Sheriff Union 1997–1999, Trustee AFL–CIO 1997–1999, Treasurer New Paths Incorporated 2000–Present, Treasurer Alternative for Children 1997–Present, President Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Committee 2004–Present, Youth Projects Advisory Board 2000–Present, Catholic Charities of Genesee/Shiawassee Counties 2006–Present, March of Dimes Flint/Saginaw Division 2000–Present, United Way Cabinet 2000–Present, and the Child Advocacy Center 2005–Present.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tina Fielder-Gibson as her hard work and contributions to the young people of Genesee County are honored by the Flint Schools Youth Project.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 (H.R. 1852). This important piece of legislation will revitalize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which was established to provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers. Through our efforts today, the FHA will be able to better assist America's working families by offering loans at affordable rates with fair terms, as we work to alleviate the problems caused by the continuing mortgage crisis.

The lack of affordable housing has long plagued many communities throughout America, and the problem is particularly acute in high cost areas like Rhode Island. In Rhode Island, the average two-bedroom apartment costs $1172 per month—at that rate, many people would need to work two or even three jobs just to pay the rent. And the situation can be even worse for those struggling to buy their own homes, particularly in today's uncertain climate. Unscrupulous lending practices have taken their toll on hard-working families, who are increasingly unable to keep pace with their ballooning mortgage payments.

The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 will provide much-needed relief for families on the brink of foreclosure. In particular, this targeted legislation will allow the FHA to raise loan limits in high cost areas and to offer zero and lower down payment loan options for borrowers that can afford mortgage payments, but lack the resources required for a down payment. H.R. 1852 will also require that an additional $300 million per year be placed in the affordable housing trust fund, which will help to provide affordable housing for years to come.

Finally, I am pleased that the bill will double current funding levels for housing counseling services. These critical services will provide additional guidance to homebuyers in the subprime market and others who have difficulty making their monthly mortgage payments.

In passing the Expanding American Homeownership Act today, we have made a commitment to the American people that we will continue to ensure affordable housing is available to all Americans. Strengthening the security of American families strengthens our economy, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARVIN L. VANGILDER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin L. VanGilder of Carthage, Missouri on receiving the Outstanding Missouri Citizen Award.

Marvin was born on September 24, 1926 in Lamar, Missouri—in Barton County. He attended Drury College in Springfield where he was involved with the area's first campus radio station. During college, Marvin was a student pastor of two rural churches and became a licensed minister in 1946. After teaching

English, history, and music for numerous years in Southwest Missouri, Marvin was hired as a disc jockey and sportscaster for radio station KDMO in Carthage. Marvin advanced to news director at KDMO and then took a job with The Carthage Press where he worked as the assistant managing editor and co-publisher.

Marvin served his community as a member, and then President, of the Carthage Board of Education. He was also on the boards of the Sunshine Children's Home, the Carthage Crisis Center, the Eastern Jasper County Red Cross, the Carthage United Way, the Carthage Lions Club and the Eastern Jasper County Mental Health Association.

Marvin has authored books on everything from poetry to the history of Barton County, Missouri. On those subjects and many more, he served as a guest lecturer at numerous schools and museums. He received the George Washington Medal of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Award in 1971, the Drury College Distinguished Alumni award and was the first citizen of Carthage to receive the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award. Marvin was married on October 15, 1950 to E. Irene Smith VanGilder and they have four daughters Paula, Linda, Leesa and Carla, one son Chris, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

I am proud to congratulate Marvin VanGilder on his years of service as a leader in our community, and across our State.

IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JONES and my other colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, in calling for a comprehensive revaluation of our strategies in Iraq. I consider the situation in Iraq to be one of Congress' highest priorities and there is an urgent need to establish a comprehensive and realistic exit strategy. We need to offer hope to the families anxiously waiting for news of their loved ones and the men and women who risk their lives everyday.

Next month will be the 40th anniversary of one of the largest protests against the Vietnam War. Over a hundred thousand people marched on Washington that day, and it worries me that the current Administration seems to have learned little from history. A similar discontent can be seen on the streets of America today, as more and more polls demonstrate dwindling public support for this war.

I have always maintained the stance that an adequate case for war was never made and that military intervention should only have been used if all other routes failed. From the beginning, I offered an alternative resolution to war. Although we can never know what the outcome of alternatives may have been, we have the chance now to change strategy and make decisive steps to developing a lasting solution.

Mr. Speaker, an increase in troop numbers is not the answer. This war, commenced in haste and founded on deception, will never provide the solutions Iraq needs to establish a strong and lasting democracy. We can't secure victory through a war of attrition, and neither can we protect our sons and daughters who stand in harm's way in a war that was never necessary.

It is true that we cannot abandon the Iraqi people. But more productive ways to help them can be found. In the current international climate, we cannot engage in meaningful dialogue on the Iraqi situation while the occupation continues. I believe we must allow the U.N. to play a greater role in the reconstruction of Iraq, advancing human rights and justice within the framework of international law. In my work in this great body, I consistently seek to protect the United States and its people above all else. However, currently there is no absolute proof of an imminent threat. In fact our vulnerability to international terrorism only rises every day our troops stay in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am dedicated to providing funding to protect our troops, but I refuse to support the failed foreign policies of the Bush administration, nor any legislation that will lead to more unnecessary deaths. The greatest thing we can do for our brave men and women in the Armed Forces is to take them out of harm's way by developing a clear, decisive exit strategy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the role and impact of credit rating agencies on the subprime credit markets.

SD–538

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of global warming on the Chesapeake Bay.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1543, to establish a national geothermal initiative to encourage increased production of energy from geothermal resources.

SD–366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine offshore tax issues, focusing on reinsurance and hedge funds.

SD–215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 2654, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the ''Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building'', H.R. 2467, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the ''Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building'', H.R. 2587, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the ''Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building'', H.R. 2778, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, as the ''Robert Merrill Postal Station'', H.R. 2825, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, as the ''Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building'', H.R. 3052, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, as the ''John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building'', H.R. 3106 and S. 2023, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, as the ''Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office'', H.R. 2765, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 44 North Main Street in Hughesville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas Post Office'', and the nomination of Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD–342

Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert Charles Tapella, of Virginia, to be Public Printer, Steven T. Walther, of Nevada, Hans von Spakovsky, of Georgia, David M. Mason, of Virginia, and Robert D. Lenhard, of Maryland, all to be a Members of the Federal Election Commission.

SR–301

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine improving internet access to help small business compete in a global economy.

SR–428A

2 p.m.

Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the President's supplemental request for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SD–106

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

SD–226

SEPTEMBER 27

9 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the prevalence of violence against Indian women.

SD–628

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gen. William E. Ward, United States Army, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Africa Command, Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, to be General, United States Air Force, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Strategic Command, Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, United States Marine Corps, to be General and to be Commander, United States Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, and Admiral Gary Roughead, United States Navy, for reappointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations.

SH–216

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine hard–rock mining on federal lands.

SD–366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD–562

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of national border security.

SD–215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 2035, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S.J. Res. 13, granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding, S. 980, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies, S. Con. Res. 45, commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month, S. Res. 258, recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad, and expressing the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation, S. 1267, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, and the nomination of James Russell Dedrick, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

SD–226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine human rights defenders in Russia.

2212RHOB

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine congestion and delays impacting travelers, focusing on possible solutions.

SR–253

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Google–DoubleClick merger and the online advertising industry, focusing on the risks for competition and privacy.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1578, to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, S. 1889, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve railroad safety by reducing accidents and to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, S. 1453, to extend the moratorium on taxes on Internet access and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce imposed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, S. 1965, to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors, S.J. Res. 17, directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with

other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, and S. Con. Res. 39, supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims, and a promotion list in the United States Coast Guard.

SR–253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (T.Doc. 103–39).

SD–419

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan, S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System, S. 867 and H.R. 299, bills to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, bills to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, S. 1808, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska, S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and S. 1039, to extend the authorization for the Coastal Heritage Trail in the State of New Jersey.

SD–366

3:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine cost effective military strategic airlift requirements in the 21st century.

SD–342

SEPTEMBER 28

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of Federal Executive Boards in pandemic preparedness.

SD–342

OCTOBER 2

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine issues and challenges facing current mine safety disasters.

SD–430

OCTOBER 4

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the security of our nation's seaports.

SR–253

OCTOBER 17

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives.

SR–253

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 27

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the fiftieth anniversary of the Little Rock High School desegregation, focusing on ensuring equal opportunity in public education.

SD–430

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine proceedings, pages S11967–S12012

Measures Introduced: One bill and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2086, and S. Res. 326–329. **Page S12002**

Measures Reported:

H.J. Res. 43, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt. (S. Rept. No. 110–184) **Page S12002**

Measures Passed:

Condemning Assassination of Antoine Ghanem: Senate agreed to S. Res. 328, condemning the assassination on September 19, 2007, of Antoine Ghanem, a member of the Parliament of Lebanon who opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon. **Pages S12010–11**

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 329, congratulating Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. **Pages S12011–12**

Water Resources Development Act—Conference Report: By 81 yeas and 12 nays (Vote No. 347), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1495, 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. **Pages S11974–96**

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel. **Page S12012**

Nominations confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Ted Poe, of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.

William Delahunt, of Massachusetts, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.) **Page S12012**

Messages from the House: **Page S12002**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S12002**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S12002**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S12002–04**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S12004–05**

Additional Statements: **Pages S12000–02**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S12005–10**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S12010**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S12010**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—347) **Page S11995**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:04 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 25, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S12012.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ON WILDFIRE ACTIVITY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States, after receiving testimony from Ann Bartuska, Deputy Chief, Research and Development, and Susan Conard, National Program Leader, Fire Ecology Research, both of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Thomas W. Swetnam, University of Arizona, Tucson; and John A. Helms, University of California Department of Forestry and Resource Management, Berkeley, on behalf of the Society of American Foresters.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 3633–3647; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 51; H. Con. Res. 217–218 and H. Res. 670–674 were introduced. **Pages H10755–56**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H10756–58**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3046, 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, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–339);

H.R. 3121, 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, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–340);

H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children (H. Rept. 110–341, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1943, to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons (H. Rept. 110–342);

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 (H. Rept. 110–343);

H. Con. Res. 25, 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 (H. Rept. 110–344, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3375, to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–345); and

H. Res. 675, providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 679) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 110–346). **Pages H10754–55**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H10699**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:38 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H10700**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

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: H. Res. 634, amended, to encourage participation in hunting and fishing, and to support 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; **Pages H10701–02**

Honoring the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina: H. Con. Res. 186, to honor the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina; **Page H10702**

Recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety: H. Con. Res. 193, to recognize all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 891; **Pages H10702–03, H10734**

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, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons; **Pages H10703–04**

Supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day: H. Res. 605, to support the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; **Pages H10706–13**

Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007: H.R. 1520, to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission; **Page H10709**

Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act: H.R. 1389, amended, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission; **Pages H10713–16**

Authorizing grants for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library: H.R. 1664, to authorize grants for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library; **Pages H10716–18**

Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007: H.R. 3540, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund; **Pages H10718–20**

Agreed to amend the title to read as follows: ''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.''. **Page H10720**

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: H. Res. 79, to recognize 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; **Pages H10720–21**

Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act: 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, and to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H10721–24**

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine: H. Res. 668, to recognize the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 892; **Pages H10724–27, H10734–35**

Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007: H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 389 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 893; **Pages H10727–29, H10735–36**

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: H. Res. 340, to express 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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 389 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 894; **Pages H10729–30, H10736**

Financial Services Diversity Initiative: H. Con. Res. 140, amended, to recognize the low presence of minorities in the financial services industry and minorities and women in upper level positions of management, and to express the sense of the Congress that active measures should be taken to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry; and **Pages H10730–32**

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: H. Res. 658, to support the goals and ideals of Federal Credit Union Month and to recognize the importance of Federal credit unions to the economy, and their critical mission in serving those of modest means. **Pages H10732–33**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H10733**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed until a later date:

Supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Life Insurance Awareness Month'': H. Res. 584, to support the goals and ideals of ''National Life Insurance Awareness Month''; **Pages H10704–06**

Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month: H. Con. Res. 210, to support the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and **Pages H10706–07**

Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day: H. Res. 663, to support the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day. **Pages H10707–09**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages H10700 and H10736.

Senate Referrals: S. 456 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Education and Labor. **Page H10735**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H10734, H10734–35, H10735–36 and H10736. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 4, a rule 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. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce that the House concur in each of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976 with the respective amendment printed in the Rules Committee report.

The rule waives all points of order against the motion except those arising under clause 10 of the rule XXI. The rule provides that the Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read.

The rule provides 1 hour general debate equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Testimony was heard by Chairman Dingell and Representatives Pallone, Barton, and Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine two years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, focusing on housing needs in the Gulf Coast, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 1756, to provide supplemental ex gratia compensation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for impacts of the nuclear testing program of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine green jobs created by global warming initiatives, 2 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine home and community based care, focusing on expanding options for long-term care, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David T. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), P. Robert Fannin, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, and Paul E. Simons, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine strengthening the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), focusing on the efficacy of the Protect America Act, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, and Robert M. Dow, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine research and treatment for Gulf War illnesses, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Safety of Imported Foods, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Capitol Visitor Center, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled ''From Imus to Industry: The Business of Stereotypes and Degrading Images,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3521, Public Housing Asset Management Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 2930, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2007; H.R. 3355, Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007; and H.R. 3524, HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007; and H.R. 946, Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on PEPFAR Reauthorization: From Emergency to Sustainability, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on APEC 2007: Advancing U.S. Exports to the Asia-Pacific Region, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, to mark up H.R. 2830, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, 11 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Task Force on Antitrust and Competition Policy, oversight hearing on Antitrust Agencies: Department of Justice Antitrust Division and Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Straightening Out the Mortgage Mess: How Can We Protect Home Ownership and Provide Relief to Consumers in Financial Distress? 3 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, oversight hearing on the Employment Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 2405, Proud to Be an American Citizen Act; H.R. 2884, Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act; H.R. 1512, To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors; and H.R. 1312, Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act, 10 a.m., 2226, Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 123, To authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund; H.R. 2498, To provide for a study regarding development of a comprehensive integrated regional water management plan that would address four general areas of regional water planning in both the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region and the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, inclusive of Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California, and to provide that such plan be the guide by which those counties use as a mechanism to address and solve long-term water needs in a sustainable and equitable manner; and H.R. 2535, Tule River Tribe Water Development Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Will NIEHS' new priorities protect public health? 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives, hearing on Organ Donation: Utilizing Public Policy and Technology to Strengthen Organ Donor Programs, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: H.R. 2693, Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act; and a measure Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Revisiting the Industrial Technologies Program (ITP): Achieving Industrial Efficiency, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on the Contribution of the Social Sciences to the Energy Challenge, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, hearing on Rail Competition and Service, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing H.R. 3515, To provide that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Emancipation Hall, 2 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on the Board of Veterans' Appeals Adjudication Process and the Appeals Management Center, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers: Management Issues, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, to consider a measure To implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing to Examine Whether Charitable Organizations Serve the Needs of Diverse Communities, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, September 25

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H. Res. 642—Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown; (2) H.R. 1302—Global Poverty Act of 2007; (3) H.R. 2185—To amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, and to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010; (4) H. Res. 548—Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon; (5) H. Res. 557—Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda; (6) H. Res. 95—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month; (7) H. Res. 25—Calling on the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship to accommodate students of all religious faiths; (8) H.R. 3625—To make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency; (9) H. Res. 590—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities; (10) H.R. 1943—Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007; (11) H. Res. 470—Supporting efforts to increase childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research; and (12) H.R. 3375—To extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Congressional Record

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