

Culberson Jefferson
 Cummings Johnson (GA)
 Davis (AL) Johnson (IL)
 Davis (CA) Johnson, Sam
 Davis (IL) Jones (NC)
 Davis (KY) Jones (OH)
 Davis, David Jordan
 Davis, Lincoln Kagen
 Davis, Tom Kanjorski
 Deal (GA) Kaptur
 DeFazio Keller
 DeGette Kennedy
 Delahunt Kildee
 DeLauro Kilpatrick
 Dent Kind
 Diaz-Balart, L. King (IA)
 Diaz-Balart, M. King (NY)
 Dicks Kingston
 Dingell Kirk
 Doggett Klein (FL)
 Donnelly Kline (MN)
 Doolittle Knollenberg
 Doyle Kucinich
 Drake Kuhl (NY)
 Dreier LaHood
 Duncan Lamborn
 Edwards Lamson
 Ehlers Langevin
 Ellison Lantos
 Ellsworth Larsen (WA)
 Emanuel Larson (CT)
 Emerson Latham
 Engel LaTourette
 English (PA) Latta
 Eshoo Lee
 Etheridge Levin
 Everett Lewis (CA)
 Fallin Lewis (GA)
 Farr Lewis (KY)
 Fattah Linder
 Feeney Lipinski
 Ferguson LoBiondo
 Filner Loebsock
 Flake Lofgren, Zoe
 Forbes Lowey
 Fortenberry Lucas
 Fossella Lungren, Daniel
 Foxx E.
 Frank (MA) Mack
 Franks (AZ) Mahoney (FL)
 Frelinghuysen Maloney (NY)
 Gallegly Manzullo
 Garrett (NJ) Marchant
 Gerlach Markey
 Giffords Marshall
 Gillibrand Matheson
 Gingrey Matsui
 Gohmert McCarthy (CA)
 Gonzalez McCarthy (NY)
 Goode McCaul (TX)
 Goodlatte McCollum (MN)
 Gordon McCotter
 Granger McCrery
 Graves McDermott
 Green, Al McGovern
 Green, Gene McHenry
 Grijalva McHugh
 Gutierrez McIntyre
 Hall (NY) McKeon
 Hall (TX) McMorris
 Hare Rodgers
 Harman McNeerney
 Hastings (WA) McNulty
 Hayes Meek (FL)
 Heller Meeks (NY)
 Hensarling Melancon
 Herger Mica
 Hersheth Sandlin Michaud
 Higgins Miller (FL)
 Hill Miller (MI)
 Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Hinojosa Miller, George
 Hirono Mitchell
 Hobson Mollohan
 Hodes Moore (KS)
 Hoekstra Moore (WI)
 Holden Moran (KS)
 Holt Moran (VA)
 Honda Murphy (CT)
 Hoyer Murphy, Patrick
 Hulshof Murphy, Tim
 Hunter Murtha
 Inglis (SC) Musgrave
 Insole Myrick
 Israel Nadler
 Issa Napolitano
 Jackson (IL) Neal (MA)
 Jackson-Lee Neugebauer
 (TX) Nunes

Obenstar
 Obey
 Olver
 Pallone
 Pascarell
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Peterson (PA)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe
 Pomeroy
 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
 Ruppertsberger
 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)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Space
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Terry
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney

NOT VOTING—19

Boustany Johnson, E. B.
 Butterfield Lynch
 Cubin Miller, Gary
 Gilchrest Ortiz
 Hastings (FL) Pastor
 Hooley Paul
 Jindal Pryce (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1756

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2007, I missed nine votes because of scheduled eye surgery in Dallas.

Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182.

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. 2499. An act to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.

□ 1800

HONORING BUCHANAN, GEORGIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Buchanan, Georgia, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

The City of Buchanan, which is located in the southwest corner of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, was incorporated on December 22, 1857. Named after former President James Buchanan, Buchanan, Georgia, has served as the county seat of Haralson County since its incorporation back in 1857.

As Americans, we celebrate the role of history in our daily lives, and we

strive to preserve the heritage that has shaped us both as a people and as a Nation. Buchanan is truly a living example of that heritage, a city that is small in population, but abundant in heart, and that represents Georgia's warm and welcoming character so well.

Madam Speaker, Georgians take great pride in celebrating the traditions of our communities. The growth, rebirth and preservation of these historic towns are important to us all, for these communities are the very backbone of our great Nation.

And so, therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the citizens of Buchanan on the city's sesquicentennial celebration of 150 years.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. STENY H. HOYER AND HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

December 18, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STENY H. HOYER and the Honorable CHRIS VAN HOLLEN to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through January 15, 2008.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with my colleagues to honor a truly remarkable Member of Congress, my friend, JULIA CARSON.

There are a lot of people in Washington, D.C., that sometimes forget their roots or why they want to be

here; not JULIA CARSON. JULIA never forgot why she was here or who she represented. She was here to expand the opportunities for others, to end inequalities in our society, and to seek justice for every American.

One of her most significant and meaningful accomplishments in the House was her effort to honor Rosa Parks with a Congressional Gold Medal. In the remarks that JULIA delivered when she introduced this bill, she said, "the quiet courage of Rosa Parks changed the course of American history."

For those of us who knew and worked with JULIA, we knew that she was not always quiet, but that the course of American history has always been changed by her courage. One of JULIA's greatest attributes was that it didn't matter who you were or where you came from or the color of your skin or the money in your pocket. She was happy to work with anyone who shared her commitment to treating everyone with respect and dignity.

Her relationship with a good friend of hers, Alan Hogan, comes to mind. Somehow, at age 17, a suburban boy from southeastern Indiana found a mentor in Ms. JULIA. Their mutual affection for each other and their work to promote justice and equality resonated with Alan and turned into a life-long friendship. Her actions inspired Alan to fight to end social injustices, including working to ensure that young African American athletes were not exploited for their talents and that they received quality education when recruited to top-notch colleges and universities for their athletic scholarships.

Ms. JULIA affected Alan's life in a profound way, and I know she has uplifted countless others that I cannot begin to list here tonight. While she may have had many pieces of legislation that she could acknowledge as great accomplishments, I see an army of volunteers, like Alan, who will continue to carry her work as the greatest of her legacies.

JULIA's humanity always pierced through people's preconceived notions of what kind of stereotype she should fit into. You could never pigeonhole JULIA CARSON or predict what she could do or what she would say next. And it often left all of us at the edge of our seat, trying to predict what she would say next.

JULIA has said that it was Rosa Parks who paved the way for her to come to Congress. I believe that JULIA's work as a representative has paved the way and opened the doors for countless young Americans who I hope will follow in her footsteps and achieve great things.

Thank you, Ms. JULIA CARSON, for your friendship and for your legacy of justice and equality for all. We love you, and we will always miss you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

UNJUST PROSECUTION AND APPEAL OF FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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. Madam Speaker, it has been 336 days since two United States Border Patrol agents entered Federal prison. Agents Ramos and Compean were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. They're serving 11 and 12 years in prison.

Earlier this month, the White House released its list of 29 pardons which are traditionally granted around Christmastime. Among the list of pardons were those convicted of conspiring to import marijuana, possessing a stolen motor vehicle and distributing cocaine.

Madam Speaker, there are 7 days until Christmas, yet Agents Ramos and Compean, who were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler, are still in Federal prison, away from their families and loved ones.

There is bipartisan agreement among Members of Congress that the overzealous prosecution of these agents and their excessive prison sentence is a tremendous miscarriage of justice. In recent days, I was pleased to join Congressman ED ROYCE and other House colleagues in writing the President to urge him to ensure that Agents Ramos and Compean are released from jail by Christmas. I was also happy to join Congressman BILL DELAHUNT and others in cosponsoring a resolution calling on the President to commute the agents' sentences to time already served.

A ruling on this case from the 5th United States Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is expected within weeks. Nothing can erase the suffering these agents and their families have undergone and the months they have spent in prison in solitary confinement away from their families; however, a judgment in favor of Ramos and Compean in this appeal would be an important victory and the first act of justice these agents have seen since their arrest.

During the appeal hearing, one of the three judges on this case, Judge E. Grady Jolly, said, "It does seem to me that the government overreacted here. For some reason, this got way out of hand."

Madam Speaker, in the eyes of many Americans, the prosecution of these border agents was not justified. An unbiased review of this case by Attorney

General Mukasey, a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee and a Presidential pardon for these agents are all steps that can and should be taken to rectify this gross miscarriage of justice.

Through the efforts of this Congress and the American people, I am hopeful that justice will soon prevail for Ramos and Compean, that the nightmare of their imprisonment will end, and they will soon return home to their families and those they long to be with.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I want to ensure the families of Ramos and Compean that those of us in Congress will not forget this injustice until these men are released.

With that, Madam Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and ask God to continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS 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.)

□ 1815

PUBLIC HOUSING IN NEW ORLEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker and Members, I rise this evening to basically talk about what is happening in New Orleans and the fact that the city council is going to take a vote on Thursday to determine whether or not they're going to dismantle the big four public housing developments in that city. If they dismantle these public housing units, the City of New Orleans will lose 4,500 units.

These units have been boarded up for 2 years. The citizens who lived in these units were evacuated as a result of Katrina and Rita. They are now living in other cities, Houston and Dallas and Austin and Atlanta, all over the place, and they thought they would be able to return once these units were rehabbed.

These units, many of them, were not destroyed. Some of them had minimal damage. For example, the one housing development, La Fete, only had water damage on the first level. And they could have not only rehabbed that first level of La Fete projects, they could have opened up those other units, but