

was assigned to be the pastor of the Church of Saint Clare on Staten Island, a position he has held to the present day.

Monsignor Murphy has always been inspired to help and to serve. From a young age, he was struck by the compassion and caring of the clergy that he met, and he felt drawn to serve his community in the same way. Even after his upcoming retirement, he still plans on working, continuing to help and to serve his community. He has always felt it important to meet people where they are at, going into the community and serving, not waiting for others to come to him. Monsignor Murphy is of the opinion that true service to others demands an active role, not passively waiting around. It is in respect to his life-long desire to aid his fellow person that he be honored today.

HONORING OLD HICKORY POST 77
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Old Hickory Post 77 American Legion Auxiliary in Lexington, Tennessee on its outstanding work and accomplishments. Across the country, the women of the American Legion Auxiliary strive to promote American patriotism and responsible citizenship. This particular auxiliary in Lexington has fully lived up to the American Legion Auxiliary's mission to serve veterans, their families and their communities.

Chartered in 1933, the Lexington auxiliary was recently reactivated on January 26, 2008. Led by their current president, Julia McBee, the members of this auxiliary have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. Only days after reactivation, the members of the Lexington Auxiliary organized a Valentine Project for the local National Guard Unit deployed to Iraq. A resounding success, the event raised enough money to send care packages to every member of the unit. These ladies have instituted various projects not only to promote the well-being of veterans and troops, but also to support the community as a whole, with special attention to local Lexington schools.

Please join me in honoring the members of the Lexington American Legion for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering patriotism. I wish to thank all the members of Old Hickory Post 77, including their officers and chairmen: Julia Annice McBee, Jo Ann Cody, Kathy Brown, Oneida Dangler, Mary Appell, Marcia Gilbert, Ruth Hurtt, Marene Snow, Jane Gale, Lutie Houston, Patricia Holmes, Venita Russell, Linda Lindsey, Denise Joyner, Hester Stitch, Diane Jowers, Lynn Lewis, Marcia Gilbert, and Janice Barker.

HONORING MUTUAL BENEFIT
INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of

Mutual Benefit Insurance Company, a successful business located in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Incorporated in 1908, Mutual Benefit is an irreplaceable attribute to the business community in both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

At its founding, Mutual Benefit served the residents of Corry, Pennsylvania and was originally known as the Corry Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The company's strong foundation foreshadowed its future successes. In 1934, Corry Mutual's charter was offered to W. Emmert Swigart, founder of Swigart Associates, one of the largest insurance agencies in the state of Pennsylvania. This financially beneficial relationship lasted almost 50 years, until 1983 when the two companies split into separate entities once more. At this time Mutual Benefit found themselves competing once again against one of the largest insurance companies within the state of Pennsylvania. Led by a driven team of leaders, Mutual Benefit rose to this challenge and exemplified many attributes which have worked to set them apart from their competition. Through active leadership, unparalleled trustworthiness, and service to the community Mutual Benefit has become one of the most respected regional carriers in Pennsylvania.

One hundred years after its humble beginning, Mutual Benefit Group now guarantees nearly \$100 million through 250 independent agents located in both Pennsylvania and Maryland. Not only do they serve 78,000 policyholders, but they also serve as an important part of the community by employing 204 people. Known for its customer service, stability and experience, Mutual Benefit Group was recognized as the number one insurance carrier in Pennsylvania and Maryland in 2006.

Mutual Benefit Insurance Company has endeavored throughout its history to improve its policies and atmosphere to fit the needs of the surrounding community. I look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I congratulate Mutual Benefit on reaching this significant milestone and wish the company all the best in its future endeavors.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation which is a simple measure the House can take to help protect our troops from undue financial hardship. We constantly receive stern lectures about the importance of supporting the troops. But supporting the troops is more than just wearing a flag pin, or sticking a yellow ribbon on your car, or impugning the patriotism of your political opponents.

Supporting the troops should entail some real benefit for those troops when they need our help. As President Lincoln put it so well, to "care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Perhaps taking proper care of the wounded at

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or providing them with suitable armor, or providing them with assistance after they return home would be a good place to start.

Here we have the opportunity to help a small number of veterans, estimated at 2,000 to 2,500, by lifting what amounts to a costly and burdensome paperwork burden. According to the Republican witness in the Judiciary Committee, this bill is "targeted, specific, and quite modest."

Will it allow these veterans to commit fraud? No. Creditors, the courts, the trustees, and the Department of Justice have ample tools at their disposal to deal with anyone trying to game the system. The case can still be dismissed for abuse based on the totality of the circumstances, the court can still deny or revoke the debtor's discharge of debts, the military could revoke the debtor's security clearance, and the criminal code provides for fines and imprisonment of up to five years.

The means test is not stopping fraud. The Bush Justice Department, which administers it, has reported that less than half a percent of all cases are dismissed based on the means test.

The form used to implement the means test has 57 separate sections. It takes a pro se debtor approximately 10 to 12 hours, and it rivals IRS form 1040 in complexity. I challenge my colleagues to fill it out.

So today members have real choice. You can vote to support the troops or you can vote to support the big banks. It is a pretty clear choice. I urge my colleagues to support the troops.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to note that I was unable to arrive on the House floor in time to vote because my flight from Memphis was significantly delayed due to bad weather. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted in favor of the three measures voted on by the House this evening: (1) H. Res. 1242, honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th Anniversary of his birth; (2) H. Con. Res. 372, supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States; and (3) H. Res. 1051, congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT STOLDAL'S
CAREER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of one of America's finest broadcast journalists and most effective community leaders, on the occasion of his retirement this month.

Robert Stoldal has achieved well-deserved legendary stature over his 41-year career at Las Vegas' CBS affiliate, KLAS-TV, Channel 8. Bob's insistence on the highest journalistic standards of accuracy, thoroughness, fairness, and aggressiveness established a clear benchmark of professional values which has been followed by hundreds of journalists, videographers, producers, and editors. Uniformly, those who have worked for Bob credit him with improving their professionalism through his guidance and the example he sets.

Bob is a good friend of mine, and he has my highest respect as a newsman and as a preeminent leader of the city we both love so much, Las Vegas. Bob has led the charge for community causes too numerous to mention, even as he has led one of America's top local newscasts for decades.

Bob and his corps of news professionals at Channel 8 and sister station, Las Vegas NEWS ONE, consistently earn the highest honors awarded by the national broadcast news industry. At the same time, Bob Stoldal worked successfully for television cameras to gain access to courtrooms; battled over the years to preserve Nevada's historical legacy; gained recognition across the Silver State as an authority on Nevada history; and, devoted himself to the growth of his alma mater, UNLV.

Bob Stoldal has the trait common to all great journalists—courage—courage to stand up to organized crime and political corruption, courage to accept the risk of going into a highly dangerous jailhouse stand-off and negotiate a peaceful solution, and, the courage to take on the federal government over its use and abuse of Nevada as a nuclear proving ground, as just some examples of his fortitude.

Southern Nevada is indeed most fortunate that a person of Bob's unflagging energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and tenacity has set the pace for the area's newsgathering during the four decades that metro Las Vegas has led the nation in population growth.

Bob, I congratulate you on a tremendous career, of which I, and our fellow Las Vegans, are so proud. I know you will keep giving your all for our community in your purported retirement!

Best wishes to you, Kay, and your family as we look to the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House.

If I had been present, I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. 438, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1242, a resolution honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. #439, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland

to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States.

Finally, I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. 440, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1051, a resolution congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, June 23, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 438—"aye"; rollcall 439—"aye"; and rollcall 440—"aye".

TRIBUTE TO SAINT GERARD PARISH

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Gerard Parish in Lansing, Michigan on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate St. Gerard on behalf of all of those in south-central Michigan who have benefited from its steadfast commitment to faith, education, outreach and prayer.

St. Gerard Parish, named after St. Gerard Majella, Patron of Mothers, was established in June of 1958. Lacking a permanent meeting place, its first Sunday services were held in the gymnasium of Bretton Woods School. Each parishioner was asked to give an hour's salary a week to build a temporary church and less than a year later, in April of 1959, ground was broken. The first liturgy in the packed 800-seat church occurred during Christmas Midnight Mass in 1959, and in the fall of 1960, Saint Gerard School opened its doors for its first class.

In October of 1974, a fund drive was announced for a permanent church building. Within three short months, the \$350,000 goal was surpassed by \$180,000. Bishop James S. Sullivan dedicated the present church on June 15, 1975. St. Gerard Parish continues to grow, requiring an expansion of its facilities beginning in 2000. Mirroring the impressive growth-rate of the church, St. Gerard School is now filled to capacity with 350 students enrolled.

St. Gerard Parish stands out for its deep involvement in the Lansing community, and it constantly seeks out ways to serve those in need. The church sponsors countless outreach programs, including Senior Citizen

potlucks and Bingo nights, Couple to Couple League and the Lansing Regional Council of Catholic Women. St. Gerard has also been extremely instrumental in reaching out to the sick and homebound through its Befriender Ministry and Respite Care. It is impossible to measure the enormous impact these ministries have had on lives throughout Lansing. They merely reflect the loving hearts of the St. Gerard community and testify to the unwavering faith that has flourished at St. Gerard for the past fifty years.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Gerard Parish on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary since first coming together to follow the Lord Jesus. May others know of my high regard for the St. Gerard community's inspiring faith and eagerness to serve, as well as my best wishes for Saint Gerard Parish in the future.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the positive contributions of the immigrant labor force to our society are too often unnoticed.

Hardworking families contribute daily and pay their share into the American system.

Hardworking mothers sometimes work three jobs, give up weekends, and take overtime and night shifts to feed and clothe their children.

Hardworking fathers wake up at 4 a.m. to go to work, earn below minimum wages, and manage to provide for their families.

Immigrants contribute in taxes from their paychecks, just like the next person.

In fact, the IRS reported that between 1996–2003, immigrants contributed \$50 billion in Federal taxes.

Social Security reported that "other than legal immigrants," will contribute 15 percent of the system's projected long term deficit.

We cannot afford to ignore the figures and more importantly, we cannot afford to ignore the positive contributions of immigrants in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, June 23, 2008, and was unable to cast votes on the House floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 1242, Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth; "yea" on H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music