

Yes, we need to replace the outdated and controversial Protect America Act (S. 1927) and enable timely intelligence gathering against terrorists. But we must also ensure that power cannot be abused to violate our most precious freedoms.

Since the tragedy of September 11, the Bush administration has abused its intelligence gathering powers. In 2005, we learned that the government had circumvented intelligence laws to spy on Americans' phone conversations. Last year, an investigation found that the FBI had misused tools intended to fight terrorism to conduct unrelated domestic surveillance. And earlier this year, reports have surfaced that the FBI requested thousands of phone records to cover up its previous abuses, and that this and other questionably obtained data is being compiled by the National Security Agency in a massive data-mining operation about which we know almost nothing.

I cannot in good conscience vote for this bill, which gives the Bush administration even broader spying powers.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act implicitly gives retroactive immunity to telecommunication companies that facilitated warrantless wiretapping over the last 7 years and ensures the dismissal of all cases pending against telecommunication companies.

Furthermore, H.R. 6304 permits the government to conduct mass, untargeted surveillance of all communication coming into and out of the United States, without any individualized review, and without any finding of wrongdoing doing.

This act permits only minimal court oversight and court review is further trivialized by authorizing the Government to continue a surveillance program even after an application is denied by the court.

The legislation also contains a loophole that permits the Government to start spying and wait for up to 7 days to go to court and obtain a warrant.

Congress should not allow for the warrantless wiretapping of American citizens. Ensuring our national security must not come at the expense of our basic civil liberties. We can protect our Nation and our rights.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON
THE PASSING OF ONESEPHOR
PETER (O.P.) BROUSSARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Oneseophor Peter Broussard, a constituent and citizen of Pleasantville, Texas, and a tireless civil rights advocate, who passed away June 25, 2008, at the age of 81.

Born in Louisiana to sharecropper parents, Mr. Broussard served in a segregated Army unit during World War II, in the battalion known as the Black Panthers. After returning to the States, Mr. Broussard served as a union organizer at Armco Steel, where he worked for 35 years.

But what truly distinguished Mr. Broussard, was his endless fight for civil rights, specifi-

cally for the integration of the Houston Independent School District. In 1966, Mr. Broussard and his wife filed a lawsuit against HISD to stop a project that would encourage de facto segregation. The suit eventually went to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, where the judges unfortunately refused to halt the program. Despite this, Mr. Broussard's eldest son, Richard Broussard, became the first African-American freshman at McReynolds High School in the Fifth Ward of Houston, TX. It was only thanks to his father's tireless struggle that Richard, and his siblings, were able to gain the good education that their father had never had.

In addition to this civil rights work, Mr. Broussard served as an officer in the Pleasantville Civic League, and as director of the Gulf Coast Community Action Board and the Community Development Commission. He dedicated his life to helping others, and this made him a true leader in every way. O.P. was a civil rights pioneer and a good friend.

He will be greatly missed by the Pleasantville community and by all those who knew him, and I ask that you remember the Broussard family in your thoughts and prayers.

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN
BOUMEDIENE ET AL. V. BUSH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court's recent decision in Boumediene et al. v. Bush has again shown a spotlight on this administration's misguided attempts to rewrite the Constitution to suit its own ends. Once again, the Court has spoken up for the Constitution and against attempts to do an end run around the venerable document.

In this important decision, the Court found that those at Guantanamo Bay "have the constitutional privilege of habeas corpus" and are "not barred from seeking the writ . . . because they have been designated as enemy combatants or because of their presence at Guantanamo" and struck down attempts by the 109th Congress and the President to prevent detainees from using this historic writ to challenge their detention in court.

In its ruling, the Court again reminds us "that the Framers considered the writ a vital instrument for the protection of individual liberty" as well as a safeguard of the separation of powers provided in the Constitution.

This decision marks at least the third time in which the Supreme Court has acted to overturn disastrous and controversial Bush Administration policies regarding the treatment of enemy combatants. These policies have helped to make Guantanamo a negative symbol of America around the world.

While I strongly believe that dangerous terrorists should and must be detained, the confusing, conflicting, and sometimes illegal policies at Guantanamo and the actions of the Supreme Court time and again clearly indicate a need for change. These changes must include the closing of the detention facilities at Guantanamo and an end to the torture and detention policies that have tarnished America's image, drawn condemnation from our al-

lies, and done little to help bring to justice those responsible for acts of terrorism against our country.

Prolonged indefinite imprisonment without charges and torture are out of line with the traditions and values of the U.S. While the Supreme Court decision will now ensure that Habeas Corpus will be available so that an independent court can review the facts and make a determination of whether individuals should be detained, the administration's other policies also need to be reformed.

Last year, in the FY 2008 Defense Authorization bill, Congress urged the administration to ensure that detainees at Guantanamo Bay, to the maximum extent possible, are charged and expeditiously prosecuted for crimes committed against the U.S. The bill also urged the administration to carry out operations at Guantanamo Bay "in a way that upholds the national interest and core values of the American people" and called for the Defense Department to provide Congress with its plan for each detainee—whether they have or will be charged, whether they will be released or transferred, or whether they will be detained.

In light of the recent ruling and continuing controversy regarding this facility, Congress can and must go further to ensure that this facility is closed.

Closing Guantanamo won't immediately repair the damage done by the detention and other policies that have undermined America's image even among some of our allies. Such a move may open up a host of new questions of what to do about those detained there. However, rather than putting that important question to an administration which our courts have repeatedly had to check, the Court's ruling creates another opportunity for Congress to Act.

And one of its first steps should be putting Guantanamo out of business while holding accountable those prisoners at Guantanamo who represent real danger to the U.S. We can and should do so in a way that does not require us to switch off the Constitution, our values, or our Nation's strong tradition of ensuring access to the courts and justice.

In the decision, Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, warned of the dangers of allowing either the legislative or executive branch to "switch the Constitution on or off at will."

In pursuing terrorists, we cannot undermine the very freedoms and rights that are the basis for our democracy. Our national security interests are best served when we interrogate and try terrorist suspects in a manner that comports with our values, produces convictions that will withstand appeals, and honors longstanding international commitments.

THE "MICHAEL BILIRAKIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTER"

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand before my colleagues today as we pass legislation that will designate the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center."

Michael Bilirakis served the Ninth Congressional District of Florida from 1983–2006. Michael was a standout member of the United States House of Representatives, and his presence is surely missed on Capitol Hill. A native of my home State of Florida, Michael worked steadfastly for his constituents for 23 years, and his lifetime of civic-minded public service has not gone unnoticed.

I had the pleasure of serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee with Michael, and his leadership as chairman of the VA Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations was unparalleled. A veteran of the United States Air Force, Michael spent his career working hard to serve the best interests of our Nation's veterans. Michael's strong traditional values and service-oriented spirit were always visible in his everyday work on Capitol Hill.

It is truly appropriate and deserving then, for Congress to name the VA spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida after Michael Bilirakis, and I thank my colleague and fellow Florida delegation member JEFF MILLER for sponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE LAND OF
LAKES BOYS CHOIR FOR A SILVER
AT THE WORLD CHOIR
GAMES

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Land of Lakes Boys Choir, headquartered in Elk River, Minnesota, for their exemplary musical achievements and the pride and inspiration they instill in our community.

The Land of Lakes Boys Choir is an extremely talented group of boys who have brought global recognition to the great State of Minnesota. These children have worked tirelessly to perfect their skills and talents, participating in many prestigious competitions. They attended the World Choir Games in Germany, France, and Austria and recently received a silver medal there. And they will also be going to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

Since 1976, this choir program has helped many boys pursue their passion for music. In 2004, the Land of Lakes Boys Choir received the International Trebby Award for "Best Boys' Choir Album" with its CD "Steal Away." And most recently, in 2006, it was awarded the Grand Champion of Cruise Festivals Music Festivals, for their outstanding performance.

This organization has been a helpful extra-curricular program for many young boys, teaching them self-discipline, character and leadership. The individuals who have sacrificed their time to train and work with these boys should also be recognized for their continued efforts to mentor these children.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Land of Lakes Boys Choir for its tremendous achievements in music and community service. I know that I join so many in Minnesota when I say that I am proud to have these boys as American ambassadors at this year's Olympic Games.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN M.
HAIRSTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John M. Hairston and in recognition of his outstanding leadership, vision and dedication to empowering those around him at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Hairston earned his first degree in English from Bluefield State College and later went on to earn his master's degree in Education Administration from Cleveland State University. He also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Public Policy at Harvard University. Prior to working at NASA, Mr. Hairston worked in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for almost thirty years, where he served as an English teacher, Staff Development Director and Chief of the Community Relations Department.

Mr. Hairston's leadership has been vital in the success of the NASA Glenn Research Center. He worked tirelessly to promote scientific literacy and to develop outreach programs that help economically disadvantaged communities and businesses. Mr. Hairston worked within NASA as the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Education. His guidance helped to ensure that NASA's educational programs were effective. Mr. Hairston has worked to make manifest NASA's vision of educating the next generation of explorers by developing criteria to ensure that their programs are effective and that they attract students from all of Cleveland's diverse communities. He succeeded in developing strong partnerships between the NASA Glenn Research Center and Greater Cleveland Community.

Mr. Hairston has been the recipient of numerous awards for his outstanding work at the NASA Glenn Research Center. NASA honored him several times by awarding him with the Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Medal for Outstanding Leadership, and their Education Distinguished Service Award. He has also been the recipient of the Presidential Rank Award and the Leadership Cleveland Civic Volunteer of the Year award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of John M. Hairston and in recognition of his outstanding leadership and vision. May his dedication to his work and to the community serve as an example for us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES ROBERT "BOB" WOOLSEY,
JR.

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay respect to the life and accomplishments of a fellow Mississippian who was tragically taken from us Wednesday, July 9th, 2008. Dr.

James Robert "Bob" Woolsey, Jr., 72, was a man of great accomplishment. He is survived by his wife, five sons, two daughters, and his four grandchildren. Dr. Woolsey was involved in community and civic activity throughout his life. He was a member of the United States Navy as well as an Eagle Scout, a Mason, and a member Oxford University United Methodist Church. He was dedicated to his chosen field and went on to become the Director of the Center for Marine Resources and Environmental Technology and the Seabed Technology Research Center at The University of Mississippi. Throughout his life, Dr. Woolsey served his country, his state, and even the international community during his tenure with the United Nations as a consulting geologist. I thank my colleagues for remembering Dr. Woolsey and his family at this time.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ROY
HUFFINGTON

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, last Friday marked the passing of a tremendous life. Ambassador Roy Huffington lived 90 very full years. He was larger than life. Roy was an entrepreneur, a veteran, a philanthropist, a husband and father, and a patriot. To me, he was a dear friend.

He first served his country in the Navy in World War II. When he returned, he struck out on his own in the energy business and pioneered the development of the industry in Indonesia. He was enormously successful in everything he did, and he used his success to give back to society. The charities he founded and supported raised millions for good causes.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Roy as Ambassador to Austria in the early 1990s, a critical time for the region. His tenure saw the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginnings of real democracy in Eastern and Central Europe. Roy used his position to forge relationships between Eastern and Western Europe and to encourage the investment that was necessary to build up former Soviet states and create new opportunities for the people who had lived so long under tyranny. He continued this work until his passing. I have fond memories of times we spent together in Davos at the World Economic Forum. He never missed one of those annual meetings.

I had the privilege of getting to know Roy and his wonderful wife Phyllis as we campaigned for their son, our former colleague Michael, as he was running for the United States Senate. Roy and Phyllis were incredibly warm, boisterous, funny and down-to-earth. When Phyllis passed away 5 years ago, everyone who knew her felt the terrible loss. Roy's unexpected passing on Friday was a tragic loss for the family and friends who loved him. We take comfort in the fact that he lived every day with a tremendous zeal for life.