

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE GREECE ROTARY CLUB FOR 50 YEARS OF TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF GREECE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the Greece Rotary Club for working for the betterment of the Greece community for 50 years.

The Greece Rotary is made up of more than 100 leaders from the community who volunteer their time and resources to help others and advance goodwill.

The Greece Rotary Club has undertaken many important volunteer projects, including giving out more than 1,600 dictionaries to help bolster children's interest in reading.

The impact of the Greece Rotary has been felt throughout the world as well. Last year, the Rotary worked in conjunction with Rotarians in Africa to complete two community service projects: donating books to Ethiopia and installing clean water systems for elementary schools in Nigeria.

Through its numerous good deeds and unselfish acts, the Greece Rotary has made good on Rotary International's mottos of "Service above self" and "They profit most who serve best." Rotary International works to bring business leaders together for humanitarian service projects and to build trust, goodwill and peace around the world.

Thus Madam Speaker, in recognition of 50 years of tremendous service to the Town of Greece, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring the Greece Rotary Club.

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR THEIR WORK TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 500 volunteers with the Pinellas County, Florida, Environmental Lands Division, which help manage and preserve Pinellas County's natural resources. These volunteers, whom I have the privilege to represent, are a diverse group that range from the age of 12 on up.

These volunteers make a vital contribution to the county's environmental protection efforts, ensuring that all citizens and visitors are able to enjoy Florida's native environment. They supplement the efforts of the Environmental Land Division's staff, helping to oversee the nearly 16,000 acres managed by the division. In the first half of 2008 alone, these

volunteers provided over 13,605 man hours in a wide range of activities.

The division's conservation efforts were recently honored both regionally and nationally. In April 2008, the National Association of Counties awarded the program with an Act of Caring Award for community improvement. Additionally, in March 2008, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council recognized the division for its community service, as well as environmental and public education efforts. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of the volunteer effort as reported by Mariana Minaya of The St. Petersburg Times as well as an editorial from the same paper.

Madam Speaker, the spirit of volunteerism and giving back to the community is alive and well in Pinellas County, Florida and I am honored to represent those who make such an invaluable contribution to the protection of Florida's natural resources. Their hard work and dedication allows the natural beauty of the land to be accessible to all visitors and I would ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing their outstanding achievements and to thank them for a job well done.

[From The St. Petersburg Times, July 30, 2008]

500 ENVIRONMENTAL GEMS

(By Mariana Minaya)

Thirty years ago, before development swallowed up swaths of Florida, Pinellas County had the foresight to begin setting aside thousands of acres of land for environmental protection.

Now, a robust corps of volunteers is striving to protect the county's natural resources. The Environmental Lands Division, which manages the county's preserves and other protected areas, has seen its ranks swell to more than 500 people. It is the fastest-growing sector of volunteerism in Pinellas County government.

The division's conservation efforts were recently honored both regionally and nationally. The volunteers are an "invaluable resource" to managing the nearly 16,000 acres under the department's care, said division director Dr. H. Bruce Rinker. Without the volunteers, the division's staff of 34 people would be seriously disadvantaged.

So far this year, volunteers have provided more than 13,605 man hours, equaling more than \$263,433. These numbers are up from the 1,387 hours of volunteer service in 1998, the year the division was founded within the department of Environmental Management.

The volunteers care for 30 different ecosystems. They staff educational centers at the Brooker Creek and Weedon Island preserves, maintain trails and grounds, survey flora and fauna, perform clerical work, lead hikes and help with research.

The sheer number of volunteers, the hours of labor they've donated, and the variety of duties they performed impressed judges of two awards programs this year. In April, the National Association of Counties recognized four counties from about two dozen entrants with an Acts of Caring Award for community improvement, said spokesman Bill Cramer.

In March, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council recognized the division for its

community service, as well as environmental and public education efforts. The division received a \$2,500 grant for its volunteer program from the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Judges "were amazed . . . to have a program that has that many volunteers," said Wren Krahl, spokeswoman for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. "The other thing they were impressed with is how much they've accomplished with the stringent budget that they've had."

Over two years, as the division's staff has shrank by 14 positions, the volunteers recognize that the need for them "is real, not feigned," Rinker said. The division wants to grow by 10 percent more volunteer hours each year to offset the effects of staff and budget cuts.

To keep the ranks full, the division keeps the red tape to a minimum, said Kristin O'Meara, the land division's volunteer site coordinator. Once a background check clears, volunteers are open to the wide range of activities. They accept anyone age 12 and up.

Interest appears to be as strong as ever from both young and old. About half the volunteers are retired. About 15 percent are under age 18. Some do it for school requirements; others have a passion for wildlife and nature.

"How can you resist being able to work in the great outdoors?" Rinker said. "Driving down our driveway is like going back in time is what I've heard from people."

That is the appeal for Bill Brown, 62, of East Lake, who lived in Groveland as a child, spending time at his grandmother's boarding house for orange grove workers, living off the land.

"I can remember eating things on the endangered species list," Brown said.

Volunteering gives Brown the freedom that 30 years of office work as an Army Corps of Engineers spokesman never afforded him.

"You don't have a timetable," he said. "They give us a job to do and then turn us loose, which I kind of like."

On Tuesday mornings, he spends about four hours with his buddy, Ty Miramonti, 65, of Tarpon Springs. As a former Navy man and firefighter, Miramonti is the more adventurous and the more experienced, having started in 1993. But once in a while, his wild streak has gotten him literally stuck in the mud, and his partner's caution adds some balance to the team, which has worked together for seven years.

Together, the pair cruises through the Brooker Creek Preserve on a four-wheel drive Ranger, clearing trails with machetes in hand. It's hard work for old men, Brown said, but it lets them stop to soak in the scenery or debate the identities of the critters crawling on them when they need a break.

"It's the type of thing you think an old man wouldn't be interested in doing, but it really is invigorating because you are totally immersed in the environment," Brown said. "It really is cathartic to get out there."

[From The St. Petersburg Times, Aug. 10, 2008]

PRESERVATION REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS

Without an army of volunteers, Pinellas County's environmental lands would become impenetrable jungles dominated by exotic, invasive species.

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

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

In no time, these lands that were preserved so residents could always observe native Florida would look nothing like native Florida.

Just how large an army is working at the task was revealed in a recent story in the St. Petersburg Times. Several hundred volunteers have been helping the county's Environmental Lands Division maintain the almost 16,000 acres for which it is responsible.

The sad fact is, even that number of people can scarcely scratch the surface of the work that needs to be done in the county's preserved lands. If more don't help, the battle eventually will be lost.

It is clear that government will not be able to take up the slack, at least not as it is currently configured. Because of budget cuts, the staff of the county's Environmental Lands Division has been reduced by 14 positions and now numbers only 34. And only a handful of those are assigned to full-time maintenance duties in the preserves.

The lands division now is hoping to grow its volunteer ranks by 10 percent each year to offset its staff cuts. All ages are welcomed—even youths from 12 to 18 can volunteer with parental involvement.

A variety of tasks is available to volunteers, from the hard but essential job of removing invasives such as air potato and Brazilian pepper, to leading hikes, doing research and staffing educational centers.

The problem, of course, with relying so heavily on volunteers is that they don't generally spend as many hours at the tasks as paid employees, and they usually insist on flexibility. Some, like Bill Brown of East Lake, can offer a half-day every week to the effort. Few spend as many hours as Reggie Hall, a volunteer who devotes much of his life to maintaining the Ozone Preserve in North Pinellas.

The combined effort of all those environmental volunteers led to recent recognition for the program from the National Association of Counties and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

The role of volunteers will be even more important in the next few years, as budgets continue to tighten and the pressure on Pinellas environmental lands grows. If you are over 12, and you have a few hours to spare helping to preserve these precious open spaces, consider signing up as an environmental lands volunteer.

HONORING THE WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE 56TH INAUGURAL PARADE

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Windsor High School Marching Band for being selected to march in President Barack Obama's inauguration parade.

In May of 2008, a mile wide tornado cut a 35 mile path through northern Colorado. The tornado resulted in one death and displaced hundreds of residents in the Windsor community. It would be easy to focus on the tragedy of the Windsor tornado when acknowledging the successes of the Windsor High School Marching Band, but to do so would overlook the extraordinary achievements of the band under any circumstance. In 2008, the WHS Marching Band won division first place in three

different regional competitions, as well as "High Musical Performance," "High General Effect," and the 2008 Colorado Bandmasters Association Class 3A "State Marching Band Championship."

For President Barack Obama's inaugural parade, the WHS Marching Band performed an original composition by Frank Sullivan entitled "The Four Freedoms." This piece is a musical interpretation of President Franklin Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union Address to the United States Congress. In the "Four Freedoms" address, FDR made the case for American assistance in World War II by enumerating the four universal freedoms worth fighting for: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Want, Freedom of Worship, and Freedom of Fear. The state of Colorado and I were privileged to be represented by the Windsor High School Marching Band at the historic inauguration of our 44th president, and I congratulate them on their much deserved success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE, A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mohonk Mountain House, a National Historic Landmark located in Ulster County, New York, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Mohonk Mountain House, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to recognize the resort's rich historical heritage, continued vitality, and its many important contributions to our local community.

Founded as a modest retreat in 1869 by Albert Smiley with his purchase of 280 acres of land and a 10-room tavern, the Mohonk Mountain House has grown into a world renowned resort with over 2,200 acres and 265 guest rooms. Adding to the splendor of this mountaintop resort are an array of award-winning amenities including a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly spa, an outdoor ice-skating pavilion, and a warm and welcoming professional staff. The Mohonk Mountain House is also acclaimed for its many charming attributes such as the numerous and stately wood-burning fireplaces, balconies with glorious views and the 19th Century tradition of afternoon tea. Also, during a stay at the Mountain House, guests can get a glimpse of the resort's historic past in the enhanced museum located in the National Historic Landmark Barn.

Not surprisingly, some of the most remarkable attributes of this Victorian castle retreat are not inside the resort but surrounding it. The Mountain House is situated at the heart of a 26,000-acre natural area which is comprised of private preserves, a state park preserve and the resort property, all within the majestic Shawangunk Mountain range. Equally beautiful during all four seasons, this extraordinary landscape affords resort guests the opportunity to swim in a glacial lake, horseback ride on miles of natural trails, enjoy the bountiful gardens and hike the many and varied trails, both on the resort property and throughout the surrounding preserves. In addition, guests and

local residents alike can enjoy opportunities to participate in rock climbing, caving, golfing, cross-county skiing and snowshoeing.

Since its inception, Mohonk Mountain House and its owners, the Smiley family, have been active stewards of the land. In 1963 the Smileys, working with Mohonk Mountain House guests, established the non-profit Mohonk Trust. The goal of this trust was to protect and manage the land for public use. Renamed in 1978 as the Mohonk Preserve, the mission of the Smiley family has continued, and, in fact, sets the standard for mountain stewardship by using science to guide land management. These efforts have helped to ensure that this remarkable landscape is preserved for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Mohonk Mountain House as it enters its 140th year as a family owned and operated resort. I am confident that the Smiley family will not only continue to be outstanding stewards of the land, but also leaders in the hospitably industry and in the management of this National Historic Landmark.

TARP REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 384, the Troubled Assets Relief Program, TARP, Reform and Accountability Act.

Since this capital purchase program, TARP, was implemented, billions of dollars in taxpayer money have been disbursed to institutions with little to no accountability or oversight over these funds. A congressional oversight panel for TARP funding recently concluded that the Treasury Department essentially does not know how TARP fund recipients are utilizing these funds, and a report released last month by the U.S. Government Accountability Office urged TARP administrators to improve the program's internal controls to better monitor how the funds are being spent.

H.R. 384 amends the TARP provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to strengthen accountability, close loopholes, and increase transparency of the administration of this program. This bill requires any existing or future institution that receives TARP funding to provide quarterly public reporting on its use of the funding and stipulates that the Treasury Department administer a public database that includes the reporting, data collection, and analysis of use of TARP funds.

Last week the House voted unanimously to require our committees to hold periodic hearings on waste, fraud, and abuse in Government programs. As a cosponsor of this bill, H. Res. 40, I believe that Congress has an obligation to restore accountability and oversight

to government. H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, is also critical to restoring the American people's faith in our Government and takes us one step closer to getting our country back on track.

Importantly, H.R. 384 requires that a certain amount of TARP funding be committed to foreclosure mitigation and stipulates that the Treasury Secretary develop a comprehensive plan to prevent and mitigate foreclosures on residential mortgages. This legislation also establishes a program to stimulate demand for home purchases and clear inventory of properties so that qualified home buyers can purchase homes at affordable mortgage rates. We cannot move quickly enough to provide assistance to homeowners across the country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 384.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN B. WEBB'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of service and community involvement from Dr. John B. Webb, who, on January 24, 2009, celebrates his 90th birthday.

The past 90 years have seen many changes in Dr. Webb's life, most of which was spent practicing veterinary medicine. After graduating from Auburn University in 1957, Dr. Webb returned to his hometown in Pensacola, Florida, to begin his own practice. When he opened his first clinic, Dr. Webb was the fifth veterinarian to begin practicing in Escambia County, Florida, and the 575th to begin practicing in the state of Florida. Today, Dr. Webb serves as one of the oldest licensed veterinarians in Escambia County.

Over the years Dr. Webb has received numerous awards for his ongoing role in the northwest Florida community. He served 15 years on the Escambia County Board of Directors for the Florida Farm Bureau as well as 25 years on the board of trustees for the Langley Bell 4-H Center. He is also a past president of the Escambia County Extension Council as well as the Pensacola Interstate Fair.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Webb for many years now and I am honored to call him a friend. A strong supporter of conservative principles and values, Dr. Webb has always offered his support and friendship to Vicki and me. As he celebrates his 90th birthday, I have much to thank him for from our years of friendship.

For many years to come, the northwest Florida community will continue to benefit from the lasting impression made by Dr. Webb, whose involvement in the community has expanded opportunities to the surrounding area. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Dr. John B. Webb upon his 90th birthday and for his exemplary service in the First District of Florida.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN J.
McRAITH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop John J. McRaith for his faithful service to the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. He has served the church and his community with distinction for over 26 years. Bishop McRaith, the third bishop of Owensboro, resigned from his position on January 5, 2009.

Bishop McRaith graduated from St. John's Prep School in Collegeville, Minnesota, and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Then, he graduated from the School of Theology, St. Bernard Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1960 and was subsequently ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, on February 21, 1960.

Bishop McRaith began serving the Diocese of Owensboro on December 15, 1982. The diocese encompasses 32 counties and covers approximately 12,500 square miles. It includes 79 parishes, three high schools, two middle schools, and 13 elementary schools. In a testament to Bishop McRaith's dedication, he would typically log more than 25,000 miles a year traveling across the diocese.

Known for his humble spirit, Bishop McRaith is quick to credit others with the successes over the last 27 years, including one of the highest church attendance rates in the Nation. Last week he said, "The good things that have happened while I was here, many, many people made them happen."

Beyond his service to the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky, Bishop McRaith serves the community as a board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Center, the McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

Bishop McRaith's devotion is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Bishop McRaith for his many years of service and commitment to western Kentucky.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Modern medicine can prevent an inconvenient infection from ballooning into a debilitating illness with a relatively simple physician's visit and subsequent treatment. And here in America, with the best medical practices and practitioners in the history of the world, we have the capabilities to keep our Nation's children healthy and their futures bright.

But we aren't doing it.

Up to now, we've chosen not to guarantee the health of our children, instead forcing upon millions of parents the difficult choice of seeking treatment for an ailing child or buying food. Making that potentially life-saving doctor's visit or keeping the lights on.

Today, we have the opportunity to erase that awful dilemma for the working mothers and fathers of more than 4 million children, including tens of thousands in my home State of Kentucky, by extending the State Children's Health Insurance Program. By supporting the SCHIP expansion we help guarantee the inalienable rights of America's children to survive, thrive, and grow up to become healthy adults.

By expanding SCHIP we can prevent the future health problems of our youngest generation so that they never grow up to be burdens on the system. It makes economic sense, but more importantly, it is our moral obligation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, as we fight to ensure that a sick child in this great Nation never has to go without care.

HONORING MICHAEL TOLLEFSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Tollefson upon his retirement as the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park. After thirty-six years with the National Park Service, Superintendent Tollefson will be honored on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at a party to be held at Curry Village Pavilion, in Yosemite National Park.

Michael Tollefson was raised in Seattle, Washington and graduated from the University of Washington in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and finance. He later returned to graduate school to study park management. As a young adult he served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years, attaining the rank of Captain. His introduction into the National Park Service began early in his career. Mr. Tollefson served as the Chief of Interpretation at Virgin Islands National Park. He also spent time as the Chief of Operations at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, as a District Ranger at Denali National Park and Park Ranger at Katmai National Park all in Alaska. His time in Alaska provided unique challenges in dealing with Alaskan brown bears, fragile coral reefs and endangered humpback whales. He officially began his National Park Service career as a seasonal ranger at North Cascades National Park in 1972.

In 1983, Mr. Tollefson attained his first superintendency position at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska. He managed the 3.3 million acre park for four years. While there, he implemented regulations guiding cruise ship operations in the park for the protection of the Humpback Whales. After four years, he became the Associate Regional Director for Operations in the National Park Service's former Pacific Northwest Region. He was stationed in Seattle and provided support for all aspects of operations to the twenty national park units in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

In 1995, Superintendent Tollefson moved to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California's Southern Sierra Nevada. During his tenure, he was responsible for guiding the restoration of over two hundred acres in the Giant Forest Sequoia Grove to protect the

world's largest organism, the Giant Sequoia Tree. The project involved the removal of over two hundred buildings, and the development of a new hotel complex built outside the grove to replace the visitor facilities. After completing the project, he then served as superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the largest federally protected mountain ecosystem in the Eastern United States, spanning between Tennessee and North Carolina. The primary issues emphasized during his tenure included air quality, traffic congestion, educational programs and scientific studies.

In January 2003, Superintendent Tollefson made his way to Yosemite National Park as Superintendent. Over the past six years he has worked tirelessly to guide a major construction program to repair the old infrastructure, improve visitor services, provide increased resource protection and expand gateway partnerships and outreach educational programs. Some of the projects that have been completed under Supervisor Tollefson include new viewing facilities at the foot of Yosemite Falls, improvements to landmark areas such as the famous view spots near the Wawona Tunnel and at Olmsted Point on the Tioga Road, overhauling the valley visitor center, and replacing a fleet of diesel buses with hybrid busses. With the assistance of the Yosemite Fund, the Superintendent has been able to complete a \$13.5 million restoration of the approach to Yosemite Falls, a \$1.5 million restoration of Olmsted Point and a \$13.5 million campaign to improve trails in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove of Redwoods and in the backcountry. Most recently the \$3.2 million Tunnel View Restoration Project was completed.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Superintendent Michael Tollefson upon his retirement from Yosemite National Park. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Superintendent Tollefson many years of continued success.

REMARKS HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERALD-DISPATCH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson famously observed that were it left up to him "to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," he would "not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Fortunately, Americans have never been forced to make that choice. Jefferson and his fellow Founding Fathers bequeathed us a democratic government that has made us the envy of the world. And, at the same time, the Nation's free press has shown itself fully worthy of the confidence Jefferson voiced in it.

This year, a great newspaper in my native West Virginia, The Herald-Dispatch, marks a major milestone in its long and distinguished history—its 100th anniversary—and I am proud to offer this salute to it.

The Herald-Dispatch published its first issue in Huntington on January 17, 1909.

The newspaper's roots actually stretch back to 1871, the very year of Huntington's birth,

when printer O.G. Chase arrived by riverboat and soon was publishing the young city's first newspaper. Known as The Independent, Chase's publication merged in 1875 with the Cabell Press to form a new publication called the Weekly Advertiser. When it later became a daily paper, the name was shortened to The Advertiser.

A rival daily, The Huntington Herald, was launched in 1890. Three years later, in 1893, printer Joseph Harvey Long, arrived in Huntington determined to purchase The Huntington Herald, which he did—paying \$100 down and pledging to pay a balance of \$1,700. Long published The Herald for only 18 months before selling it and purchasing The Advertiser.

Floyd S. Chapman, a future several-term mayor of Huntington, was first the city editor of The Advertiser, then editor of The Herald. In 1904, he left to begin his own newspaper, The Huntington Dispatch. In 1909, The Herald and The Dispatch merged to become The Herald-Dispatch.

Flash forward two decades and another historic merger occurred in 1927 when The Advertiser and The Herald-Dispatch merged to form the Huntington Publishing Co., with J.H. Long as president. Known to one and all by his honorary title of "Colonel," Long would go on to become the undisputed dean of West Virginia newspapermen.

The staff of The Herald-Dispatch moved into The Advertiser's handsome new building on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Tenth Street, but the two staffs remained separate and highly competitive. The building's presses published The Advertiser each afternoon, The Herald-Dispatch each morning and a combined edition, The Herald-Advertiser, on Sundays.

Over the years, Colonel Long not only made The Advertiser and The Herald-Dispatch the region's leading newspapers, he and his sons also branched out into broadcasting. In 1923, the company purchased WSAZ Radio and in 1949 founded WSAZ-TV, one of the Nation's first television stations.

Colonel Long died in 1958 at age 95.

In 1971, the Gannett Co., one of the Nation's largest newspaper chains, purchased the Huntington Publishing Co. newspapers.

Under Gannett, the newsroom's typewriters gave way to computer terminals, and the noisy Linotype machines that once spit out lines of hot metal type were consigned to the junkyard.

In 1979, The Advertiser became one of many afternoon newspapers to cease publication, a victim of changing tastes on the part of readers who now prefer morning newspapers. At the same time, the Sunday Herald-Advertiser nameplate was retired and The Herald-Dispatch became a seven-day-a-week publication. Many long-time staffers on The Advertiser moved over to The Herald-Dispatch.

Gannett published The Herald-Dispatch for 36 years, until May of 2007 when the company sold it to another national chain, Gatehouse Media. A month later, Gatehouse in turn sold the newspaper to a Huntington company, Champion Printing, thus returning it to local ownership.

And indeed, the heart and spirit of America's free press, from the beginning, have been individuals dedicated to keeping the public informed, communities educated, and discourse alive and well. Throughout its century

of living, the Herald Dispatch's corps of employees has kept the interest and needs of its neighbors foremost in their writing, coverage and opining.

On this, its 100th anniversary, I extend my hearty congratulations to The Herald-Dispatch. May it continue to inform and entertain its thousands of readers for many, many years to come.

TARP REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 384, TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009. This bill makes critical adjustments to the Troubled Assets Relief Program, TARP.

On October 3rd of last year, I voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act in response to the continued economic turmoil across the country. This bill created the TARP initiative to address many of the ills plaguing our economy. However, like many Americans, I have been disappointed in how the administration has managed this initiative. H.R. 384 addresses these concerns by closing loopholes, increasing transparency, and strengthening accountability in the TARP. H.R. 384 strengthens executive compensation restrictions against "golden parachutes" for retiring executives and prohibits bonuses for the 25 highest paid employees of a company receiving TARP funds. This bill also adds new strengthened reporting requirements for companies to detail their planning and use of TARP funds.

While we must continue to work to revive the credit market for consumers, TARP funds also need to be targeted to the thousands of American families facing the prospect of home foreclosure. I am pleased that H.R. 384 mandates that the Treasury Department use up to \$100 billion of the TARP funding to develop a foreclosure mitigation plan. In addition, H.R. 384 includes provisions that lower premiums for consumers that are taking part in the Hope for Homeowners initiative, as well as provisions that will direct the Treasury Department to ensure the availability of affordable mortgage rates for qualified home buyers. These changes benefit the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are facing foreclosure, as well as stimulating the home buying industry and benefiting our struggling economy. Finally, this bill increases confidence in the financial industry by permanently providing Federal deposit insurance for deposits up to \$250,000.

The provisions of H.R. 384 help ensure that the TARP will be better used to address the needs of millions of Americans who are struggling to get credit from lenders, hold on to their savings, and avoid home foreclosures. I support H.R. 384, TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

HONORING VENTURA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 60th anniversary of the Ventura County Economic Development Association, VCEDA.

In the past two decades, VCEDA has been actively involved in a myriad of projects aimed at maintaining the economic vitality of the county, including BRAC '95 and '05 to protect our military bases; mediating air quality issues to resolve differences and prevent costly court battles; working with schools, businesses and corporate executives to determine needs for a skilled trained workforce; and working with local governments to remove unwarranted obstacles to the growth of business and industry.

VCEDA has played an important role in bringing and continuing to support Channel Islands State University in Ventura County. And it has set a goal of working with all educators at all levels to ensure that the upcoming workforce is ready to meet the needs of business in the 21st century.

Most recently, VCEDA has been recognized as "The Champion of Job Growth" by the Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County, "The Small Business Advocate" by the Pacific Coast Business Times and received "The Distinguished Business Leader Award" by the Ventura County Leadership Academy.

I commend VCEDA for its outstanding leadership and commitment in serving the needs of its members and the surrounding community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF T.D.
STEINKE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of T.D. Steinke.

I will deeply miss our friend, T.D. Steinke. It has been a blessing in my life to have had T.D. as a friend for 26 years.

T.D. always stood up for the dignity of average working families. In doing so, he inspired me and so many others to remember the people who are the heart and soul of our Nation's economy and our values.

I guess it's a surprise to no one that T.D. was a Democrat's Democrat.

That is why my prayer today is that St. Peter is not a Republican. However, if I am wrong, I have no doubt that T.D. is working to convert him.

As I listened to President Obama's inaugural address yesterday, I couldn't help but think about T.D. and how much he would have savored a Democrat being sworn in as our new president.

Then, as I looked out at the crowds of over 2 million people, I realized that T.D. had just decided he would rather watch the inauguration from a better place.

Ruth, I want to thank you and your family for sharing T.D. with all of us, who will always be part of our family.

I thank God for giving us the blessing of T.D. and pray that He will give you strength and comfort in the years and days ahead.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 384, the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) Reform and Accountability Act of 2009. This bill will amend the TARP provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, EESA, to strengthen accountability, close loopholes, increase transparency, and most importantly, require the Treasury Department to take significant steps on foreclosure mitigation.

Madam Speaker, I was particularly pleased to work with Chairman FRANK and his staff on significant portions of the Manager's amendment to this legislation which ensures that small and minority businesses along with local, community, and private banks gain fair and equitable access to the TARP funds.

It's been 3 months since the Treasury started disbursing TARP funds. Just in time perhaps for a lot of big banks, however smaller banks have been locked out so far. A lot of small banks certainly are in need of relief as the real estate crisis continues to unfold and hundreds have already applied.

According to recent reports, the Treasury Department has yet to issue "the necessary guidelines for about 3,000 additional private banks. Most of them are set up as partnerships, with no more than 100 shareholders. They are not able to issue preferred shares to the government in exchange for capital injections, as other banks can." While Treasury officials state they are "working on a solution," for these private banks time is of the essence.

The Treasury Department has handed out more than \$155 billion to 77 banks. Of that sum, \$115 billion has gone to the eight largest banks. Community banks hold 11 percent of the industry's total assets and play a vital role in small business and agriculture lending. Community banks provide 29 percent of small commercial and industrial loans, 40 percent of small commercial real estate loans and 77 percent of small agricultural production loans.

This Manager's amendment requires that the Treasury Department act promptly to permit smaller community financial institutions and specifically private banks that have been shut out so far in participating on the same terms as the large financial institutions that have already received funds.

This is a major change for millions of Americans who bank in private banks and who deserve the same access to needed capital. Small businesses are the backbone of our Nation, and unfortunately, they have not been afforded the opportunity that large financial institutions have received to TARP funds and loans. Small businesses represent more than the American dream—they represent the

American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country. Small business growth means economic growth for the Nation. We cannot stabilize and revitalize our economy without ensuring the inclusion and participation of the small business segment of our economy. With the ever worsening economic crisis, we must ensure in this legislation that small and minority businesses and community banks are afforded an opportunity to benefit from this important legislation. I am very pleased that the Manager's amendment will affect this change.

In Section 107, the Manager's amendment creates an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, which will be responsible for developing and implementing standards and procedures to ensure the inclusion and utilization of minority and women-owned businesses. These businesses will include financial institutions, investment banking firms, mortgage banking firms, broker-dealers, accountants, and consultants.

Furthermore, the inclusion of these businesses should be at all levels, including procurement, insurance, and all types of contracts such as the issuance or guarantee of debt, equity, or mortgage-related securities. This office will also be responsible for diversity in the management, employment, and business activities of the TARP, including the management of mortgage and securities portfolios, making of equity investments, the sale and servicing of mortgage loans, and the implementation its affordable housing programs and initiatives.

Section 107 also calls for the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress in 180 days detailed information describing the actions taken by the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, which will include a statement of the total amounts provided under TARP to small, minority, and women-owned businesses. The Manager's amendment in Section 404 also has clarifying language ensuring that the Secretary has authority to support the availability of small business loans and loans to minority and disadvantaged businesses.

This will be critical to ensuring that small and minority businesses have access to loans, financing, and purchase of asset-backed securities directly through the Treasury Department or the Federal Reserve.

H.R. 384 reforms TARP by increasing oversight, reporting, monitoring and accountability. It requires any existing or future institution that receives funding under TARP to provide no less than quarterly public reporting on its use of TARP funding. Any insured depository institution that receives funding under TARP is required to report quarterly on the amount of any increased lending (or reduction in decrease of lending) and related activity attributable to such financial assistance.

In connection with any new receipt of TARP funds, Treasury is also required to reach an agreement with the institution, and its primary Federal regulator on how the funds are to be used and benchmarks the institution is required to meet so as to advance the purposes of the Act to strengthen the soundness of the financial system and the availability of credit to the economy. In addition, a recipient institution's primary Federal regulator must specifically examine use of funds and compliance

with any program requirements, including executive compensation and any specific agreement terms.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this legislation has strong requirements regarding executive compensation. For any new receipt of TARP funds (except those by small financial institutions), this legislation applies the most stringent non-tax executive compensation restrictions from EESA across the board including:

1. Requiring Treasury to prohibit incentives that encourage excessive risks,
2. Providing for claw-back of compensation received based on materially inaccurate statements; and
3. Prohibits all golden parachute payment for the duration of the investment.

Included in this legislation is a requirement of government board representation by authorizing Treasury to have an observer at board or board committee meetings of recipient institutions. This legislation changes to structure and authority of TARP board—the Financial Stability Oversight Board is expanded to include the chairman of the FDIC and two additional members who are not currently Federal employees, who shall be appointed by the President and subject to Senate confirmation. The board will have the authority to overturn policy decisions of the Treasury Secretary by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Madam Speaker, the Act provides that the second \$350 billion is conditioned on the use of up to \$100 billion, but no less than \$40 billion, for foreclosure mitigation, with plan required by March 15, 2009. By that date, the Secretary shall develop, subject to TARP Board approval, a comprehensive plan to prevent and mitigate foreclosures on residential mortgages. The Secretary shall begin committing TARP funds to implement the plan no later than April 1, 2009. The Secretary must certify to Congress by May 15, 2009, if he has not committed more than the required minimum \$40 billion.

The foreclosure mitigation plans must apply only to owner-occupied residences and shall leverage private capital to the maximum extent possible consistent with maximizing prevention of foreclosures. Treasury must use some combination of the following program alternatives:

1. Guarantee program for qualifying loan modifications under a systematic plan, which may be delegated to the FDIC or other contractor
2. Bringing costs of Hope for Homeowner loans down (beyond mandatory changes in Title V below), either through coverage of fees, purchasing H4H mortgages to ensure affordable rates, or both
3. Program for loans to pay down second lien mortgages that are impeding a loan modification subject to any writedown by existing lender Treasury may require
4. Servicer incentives/assistance—payments to servicers in connection with implementation of qualifying loan modifications
5. Purchase of whole loans for the purpose of modifying or refinancing the loans (with authorization to delegate to FDIC)

In consultation with the FDIC and HUD and with the approval of the board, Treasury may determine that modifications to an initial plan are necessary to achieve the purposes of this act or that modifications to component programs of the plan are necessary to maximize prevention of foreclosure and minimize costs to the taxpayers.

A safe harbor from liability is provided to servicers who engage in loan modifications, regardless of any provisions in a servicing agreement, so long as the servicer acts in a manner consistent with the duty established in the Homeowner Emergency Relief Act, maximize the net present value, NPV, of pooled mortgages to all investors as a whole; engage in loan modifications for mortgages that are in default or for which default is reasonably foreseeable; the property is owner-occupied; the anticipated recovery on the mod would exceed, on an NPV basis, the anticipated recovery through foreclosure.

This bill requires persons who bring suit unsuccessfully against servicers for engaging in loan modifications under the Act to pay the servicers' court costs and legal fees. It also requires Servicers who modify loans under the safe harbor to regularly report to the Treasury on the extent, scope and results of the servicer's modification activities.

In addition to the above requirements, an Oversight Panel is required to report to Congress by July 1 on the actions taken by Treasury on foreclosure mitigation and the impact and effectiveness of the actions in minimizing foreclosures and minimizing costs to the taxpayers.

H.R. 384 clarifies and confirms Treasury authorization to provide assistance to automobile manufacturers under the TARP. With respect to the assistance already provided to the domestic automobile industry, includes conditions of the House auto bill, including long-term restructuring requirements.

There is further clarification on:

Treasury's authority to provide support to the financing arms of automakers for financing activities is clarified to ensure that they can continue to provide needed credit, including through dealer and other financing of consumer and business auto and other vehicle loans and dealer floor loans.

Treasury's authority to establish facilities to support the availability of consumer loans, such as student loans, and auto and other vehicle loans. Such support may include the purchase of asset-backed securities, directly or through the Federal Reserve.

Treasury's authority to provide support for commercial real estate loans and mortgage-backed securities.

Treasury's authority to provide support to issuers of municipal securities, including through the direct purchase of municipal securities or the provision of credit enhancements in connection with any Federal Reserve facility to finance the purchase of municipal securities.

In addition, more reforms are enunciated for Homeowners in Title V. The Home Buyer Stimulus provisions require Treasury to develop a program, outside of the TARP, to stimulate demand for home purchases and clear inventory of properties, including through ensuring the availability of affordable mortgage rates for qualified home buyers.

In developing such a program Treasury may take into consideration impact on areas with the highest inventories of foreclosed properties. The programs will be executed through the purchase of mortgages and MBS using funding under HERA. Treasury will provide mechanisms to ensure availability of such reduced rate loans through financial institutions that act as either originators or as portfolio lenders.

Under this provision, Treasury has to make affordable rates available under this program available in connection with Hope for Homeowner refinancing program.

This legislation will give a permanent increase in FDIC and NCUA Deposit Insurance Limits, it makes permanent the increase in deposit insurance coverage for banks and credit unions to \$250,000, which was enacted temporarily as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act and is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2009, and includes an inflation adjustment provision for future coverage.

Finally, I applaud Chairman FRANK and the Committee on Financial Services for their hard work on this important piece of legislation. In this economic climate it is critical for us to remember that while we need to assist our financial institutions, we cannot do this without implementing reforms to protect Americans' hard-earned money.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

HONORING DR. LUIS CONTE-
AGUERO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the life and work of Dr. Luis Conte-Aguero who has devoted himself to fighting communism in Cuba and spreading democracy throughout the entirety of Latin America.

While Dr. Luis Conte-Aguero is not a native-born American, he has served as a shining example of patriotism for all in our community. Since his arrival to the U.S. in 1960, he has worked tirelessly for freedom and democracy around the globe.

As a young philosophy student at the University of Havana, Dr. Conte-Aguero befriended another student named Fidel Castro. However, after the fall of President Fulgencio Batista, Castro revealed his true intentions for Cuba. Dr. Conte-Aguero vehemently fought Castro in hopes of preventing Cuba from becoming a communist state.

In 1960, Dr. Conte-Aguero was forced to flee Cuba, leaving his home and everything that he knew and loved. He took with him nine handwritten notes in his pocket which Fidel Castro wrote him while in prison in the 1950's. The Prison Letters of Fidel Castro has since served as a platform from which Dr. Conte-Aguero could expose the atrocities committed by Castro to the world.

The Prison Letters of Fidel Castro was only the beginning for this storied and well-celebrated poet whose honors are numerous, meritorious, and well-deserved. The Dominican Republic has honored him as "The Highest Voice in America"; in Uruguay, he was selected by delegates from 14 nations to be the President of Alliance for Freedom; and his contributions to the Dominican Republic and its quest for freedom were recognized by the country's armed forces in 1965 when he was awarded the title of "Continental Leader and Standard Bearer of Democracy in America."

I pray that many more in America and around the world will choose to follow the example of Dr. Luis Conte-Aguero. It is a blessing that the elegance of his pen will preserve

his legacy for future generations so that they may also choose to expose the crimes of tyrants and fight for the freedom of all people.

Thank you, Dr. Conte-Aguero.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act.

I am one of the few members on my side of the aisle to vote against the TARP bill both times it came before this House. I did so because I believed that it rewarded the very entities that built the financial house of cards that has come crashing down. The Bush Administration pressed this body to act with all haste based on faulty information about the problems we faced and with scant explanation for how the resources requested would be used. The bill left too much discretion to the Secretary, and provided too little oversight of the historic outlay of taxpayer funds. I compared the Bush Administration's rush to bail out Wall Street to their rush to invade Iraq. I take no pleasure in being right on this score—but the management of the first outlay of TARP funds has been erratic and inefficient. In fact, the execution of this bailout provides the perfect thumbnail of the eight years of the Bush Administration: they didn't have a plan, they didn't do what they said they were going to do, they didn't take care of struggling homeowners, but made sure to look after the interests of big business. The mission was not accomplished.

I do not support the release of additional TARP funds and will vote to withhold those funds if such a bill comes before the House. Today, however, we have a chance to make a bad law better and that deserves our support. The reforms in this bill are the conditions that should have been included in the original package. This bill requires reporting by institutions that receive taxpayer money and requires Treasury to reach an agreement with institutions that take taxpayer funds on exactly how those funds will be used. This bill also limits the ability for those institutions to use taxpayer funds to pay their executives big bonuses that encourage short-term risk taking.

Most importantly, this bill mandates that the Treasury Department commit significant funds—up to \$100 billion—to foreclosure mitigation and keeping people in the homes they own or rent.

Our Nation is in a deep recession and people at all economic levels are feeling the pain. People struggling to make ends meet are having a tough time understanding why our government is using tax money to bail out the

bank that is foreclosing on their home. The first \$350 billion is gone with very little to show for it. I would prefer that Congress go back to the drawing board and develop a comprehensive program to save people's houses without rewarding the institutions that made bad loans. In the absence of such action, I support H.R. 384, because we must ensure that at least some of the second \$350 billion of taxpayer dollars goes to help people stay in their homes and weather this recession.

AMERICA MUST STAND WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial in the New York Times highlighting the case of Iranian human rights activist, and Nobel Prize laureate, Shirin Ebadi, who faces harassment and intimidation at the hands of the Iranian government.

She is not alone.

According to the most recent State Department Human Rights Report, “[Iran’s] poor human rights record worsened, and it continued to commit numerous, serious abuses . . . Security forces arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals and held political prisoners and women’s rights activists. There was a lack of judicial independence and of fair public trials. The government severely restricted civil liberties, including freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, movement, and privacy. The government placed severe restrictions on freedom of religion. Official corruption and a lack of government transparency persisted.”

We must continue to stand with human rights defenders like Shirin Ebadi, who is bravely confronting her own government’s injustices.

[From the New York Times, January 2, 2009]

THE WOMAN THE MULLAHS FEAR

(Editorial)

Men hold all of the meaningful levers of political power in Iran, but it is a woman they fear. If not, why is the mullah-led government trying to shut down the operations of Shirin Ebadi?

Ms. Ebadi, a lawyer and her country’s leading human rights activist, is the first Muslim woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize. On Monday, the authorities stormed her private office, seizing her computers and her clients’ documents. A week earlier, they closed her Center for Defenders of Human Rights, a coalition of human rights groups and other activists whose members had planned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When she was awarded the peace prize in 2003, the Nobel committee called Ms. Ebadi “a courageous person” for standing up against Iran’s bullying government. In the years since, she has endured repeated death threats from radical groups and regular government intimidation. That courage has never faltered.

With presidential elections scheduled for June, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and

his allies apparently decided they could not risk letting Ms. Ebadi continue the work she has done with distinction (and without pay) for the past 15 years—exposing government violations of human rights and defending human rights and democracy activists.

No doubt the authorities were unhappy with a report produced by her center that was cited recently by the United Nations’ secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, when the General Assembly approved a nonbinding resolution condemning Iran’s human rights record. But we suspect their ambitions go far beyond trying to suppress one report. They are clearly hoping to intimidate Ms. Ebadi and all other independent voices in Iran. That must not be allowed to happen.

We condemn Tehran’s mistreatment of this woman of extraordinary honor and courage. We urge the United States, Europe and other major powers to keep pressure on Iran to ensure that no further harm comes to Ms. Ebadi and that she remains free to do her essential work.

If Tehran wants relief from international criticism about its human rights record, it must start by adhering to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and respecting the rights of all of its citizens.

JACK HAMILTON AND THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF SOMERVILLE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and constituent, Jack Hamilton, who is retiring after almost three decades as Executive Director of CAAS, the Community Action Agency of Somerville. Jack is the man who made both “community” and “action” a reality in the day to day work of the agency. He fought poverty and discrimination every day of his adult life. He communicated a sense of urgency to his staff and inspired both colleagues and clients with his deep commitment to the dignity and well-being of every person.

Under his leadership an anti-poverty agency grew to offer services ranging from early childhood education and parenting support, to help for tenants, access to health care, and advocacy for the disabled. He was an active citizen, far beyond what would have been expected of him as CAAS Executive Director, and he encouraged others to become involved. He never shied away from personal involvement in electoral politics, for and against those candidates whom he saw as worthy, or unworthy, of support, but he never let petty political differences limit his effectiveness.

Jack worked with elected officials and with me when I served as Mayor, collegially and constructively, but he never withheld his criticism when he felt a rebuke was necessary. Above all, he was determined to work with anyone and everyone engaged in an important issue, to cooperate and to understand such honest differences as might arise. He is a man of compassion and integrity, capable of righteous indignation and generous anger. I am proud to be his friend and I am grateful for his service to the city we both love.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND
HERSELF FROM ATTACK**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, as a Member of Congress it is a high honor to cast my vote in the people's House. In my career, I have exercised that privilege over 4,200 times. While my record is not perfect, I am proud that last year I participated in 99 percent of all votes.

That is all the more reason why I am filled with regret that I unintentionally missed my opportunity to cast a vote last Friday on Rollcall No. 10, the resolution recognizing Israel's right to defend herself against attacks from Gaza. As a longtime supporter of Israel and her right to exist, I want to inform the House that were I present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I offer my strong support of Israel and H. Res. 34. Since the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has continually launched thousands of rockets into southern Israel, killing innocent civilians, destroying vital infrastructure and private property, and holding hostage virtually all southern Israel's residents.

Though the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire of June 2008 reduced the number of rocket attacks from Gaza, the attacks never fully ended. Instead, Hamas and its foreign allies used this opportunity to smuggle more weapons into the region. Once the ceasefire expired on December 19, 2008, Hamas resumed its daily attacks on Israel with increased ferocity using its new and improved longer range Iranian-made rockets smuggled in during the ceasefire. Israel was left with little choice but to retaliate against these attacks by targeting Hamas' military forces and weapons stockpiles.

While any loss of life is deplorable, the fact remains that it was Hamas who forced Israel to resort to a military solution. Thus, I offer Israel my full support in the efforts to protect her citizens. If America fell under the same daily barrage of rocket attacks, we would not hesitate to strike back with military force, nor would we seek permission to take the necessary steps to protect our citizens.

Madam Speaker, Israel has a legal, moral, and historical right to exist in peace with secure and defensible borders. While it is my earnest prayer that this current conflict may be resolved shortly through a durable and sustainable ceasefire, Israel cannot put at risk the security of her people by allowing Hamas to continue to export violence from Gaza.

The loss of innocent civilian life is tragic and it is deplorable that Hamas complicates Israel's attempts to avoid civilian casualties by stockpiling weapons in homes and in mosques and using public places like schools to launch their sinister attacks on Israel. The Palestinian people deserve better.

Peace can never be achieved so long as terrorist groups like Hamas continue to operate. Israel has been our staunchest ally in the Middle East and a full partner in the global war against radical jihadists—individuals who would destroy our Nation, our children, our values, and the very existence of Western civilization. We must continue to support Israel's

right to defend herself against those who seek to destroy her and continue to support efforts to bring a lasting peace between Israel and her neighbors.

Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 34 and Israel's right to defend herself from attack.

AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT
TOWARDS THE STATE OF ISRAEL**HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to affirm that Hamas's continued and violent attacks against Israel have again undermined the potential for peace under already tenuous conditions, harming both Palestinians and Israeli civilians in an unprovoked assault. I join many of my fellow Americans in calling for Hamas to end its attacks, recognize Israel's right to exist, dismantle its terrorist infrastructure, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. I was proud to vote last week with a bipartisan majority of my colleagues in support of H. Res. 34, expressing our continued commitment to the welfare and survival of Israel, and recognizing its right to act in self-defense.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill represents a strong bipartisan first step to reform our broken health care system by guaranteeing that millions of uninsured children will have the health care that they need. Its passage will bring a symbolic end to the broken promises of the Bush Administration, which twice chose to deny coverage to 4 million children in desperate need of health care.

Over the past decade the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has helped reduce the number of uninsured children by one-third and has made significant progress in improving the health of low-income children. H.R. 2 will reauthorize this critical program until 2013, ensuring that 7 million children currently covered by SCHIP continue to receive health coverage. Equally as important, this bill will extend health coverage to an additional 4 million low-income children who are currently uninsured.

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 strengthens SCHIP by including incentives for states to develop effective outreach and enroll more eligible children. In addition, the bill improves access to both mental health services and dental health care, and offers states the option to cover targeted low-income pregnant women as a way to provide the essential prenatal care that can help reduce birth defects.

I am particularly grateful that our leadership has chosen to include the provisions of the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act in this SCHIP reauthorization. This provision will restore the states' option to provide coverage to legal immigrant children who meet all other eligibility criteria, thereby seizing the opportunity to address health disparities in communities of color that historically have had very poor access to health care.

Madam Speaker, I believe this bill takes a giant step forward in honoring our moral imperative to ensure that age, race and income do not determine the health status of our children. I am proud to vote for its passage today, to protect our commitment to our children, and to offer them the promise of a healthier tomorrow.

HONORING MARY ANN RIOJAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Representative JIM COSTA and Representative DEVIN NUNES, to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas upon being selected by ABC's reality television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Ms. Riojas and her family were surprised by Ty Pennington and his crew on January 8, 2009 at their home in Fresno, CA.

Mary Ann Riojas was born without legs and with only one fully developed arm. As a child, Ms. Riojas was placed into the foster care system, and was faced with an unstable home life. She began to gain her independence when she was introduced into the Easter Seals program and they provided her with her first wheelchair. With this wheelchair she was able to attend Easter Seals Camp Harmon in the Santa Cruz Mountains. At Camp Harmon she learned how to swim and was able to participate in camp activities. The summer camp program provided her an opportunity to meet new people, try new things and continue to gain her independence.

As a young adult, Ms. Riojas decided to stay at home and raise her four children. For a short time she was receiving public assistance to keep her family afloat. In spite of her disabilities, and financial struggle, she was determined to become the first in her family to earn a college degree; she graduated in 2002 from San Joaquin Valley College with an Associate of Arts degree in business administration. To further her independence, she obtained her drivers license, and with the assistance of Easter Seals, she purchased her first fully-equipped, hand-controlled vehicle.

When she was unable to find a job because of her disabilities, Ms. Riojas became an employee of Easter Seals. Her first job was as the office manager at the Child Development Center at Children's Hospital Central California. In 2005, she became the National Ambassador for Easter Seals and travelled all over the country spreading her joy and enthusiasm for life. Ms. Riojas eventually changed jobs, and in 2006, she began working for the Fresno Housing Authority as a counselor. This position has allowed her to assist families in her community that are facing housing and financial problems.

Ms. Riojas does not see herself as disabled, but rather as a mother and an advocate for those with special needs. She is a strong woman who has raised four children; Nichole, Victoria, Angel and Jessie. She continues to inspire others on a daily basis. Being selected for the show is a tribute to Ms. Riojas' dedication to her community and personal commitment to overcome all of life's adversities.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas upon being selected for the ABC reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Riojas and her family many years of happiness and success.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I would like to draw attention to section 403 of H.R. 384, the "TARP Reform and Accountability Act." It is clearer every day that there is a crisis in the commercial real estate credit markets. Section 403 of H.R. 384 clarifies Treasury's authority to take action to support liquidity in the commercial real estate market.

Right now the \$3.4 trillion commercial mortgage market is frozen. Most lenders have withdrawn from the market and there is no secondary market for commercial mortgages. In 2007, the market provided approximately \$240 billion in financing, which represented nearly 50 percent of all commercial lending. In contrast, the market came to a screeching halt and provided less than \$13 billion in issuance in 2008, despite borrowers' demand. In 2009, tens of billions of commercial real estate loans will come due without any capacity to refinance these performing loans. The result could very well be widespread loan defaults. With the downturn in the U.S. economy now having dramatic effects on the commercial real estate market, Section 403 affirms the Treasury Department's ability to take action to help preserve this important sector of our economy.

With the clarification included in Section 403, the Treasury can move forward in determining how best to address this situation—either through the Term Asset-backed Securities Lending Facility; or by setting aside TARP funds for the creation of a commercial lending facility that would provide the private market with liquidity and allow for the extension of new credit, as well as assist in refinancing existing performing loans.

It is important that we continue to act to address this crisis in a responsible manner that protects the American taxpayer and preserves vital sectors of the United States economy and I urge my colleagues to do so through their support of H.R. 384.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, last fall, I opposed the initial round of financial recovery spending on the grounds that there were too many unknowns about what, and who, our federal dollars were financing. Subsequent events, which revealed that many recipients continued to hold back from making the loans necessary for economic recovery, justified my initial position.

With H.R. 384, Congress is beginning this process to recover and renew America's economic strength with a new administration. Further congressional action is necessary because the efforts to date have been off the mark. This bill is the first step to providing guidance to the new administration, which has already learned many of the lessons from the past administration's failed effort.

I have come to this juncture today with an even greater sense of urgency than even last fall. Thanks to this legislation we can provide hope to American families. This legislation puts stronger oversight mechanisms in place and requires the Treasury Department to reach enforceable and measurable agreements on the use of TARP funds. The legislation also places strong limitations on executive compensation, provides strong foreclosure relief, and includes significant incentives that will aid homebuyers struggling to refinance their loans. For these reasons, H.R. 384 deserves my support.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO
DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AT-
TACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 34 recognizing the State of Israel's right to exist in the community of nations and reaffirming America's strong support for Israel.

Paramount among any sovereign state's rights is the right to defend itself. I voted to affirm that right for our good friend, the State of Israel against attacks from Hamas. If the Hamas-led government truly wishes to be a member of the global community, it must acknowledge and abide by all the world's rules including severing all links to terrorism and acknowledging the right of Israel's peaceful existence.

Madam Speaker, the Middle East has been plagued by chronic fighting long enough. I join my colleagues in supporting Israel and in call-

ing on all parties to cease hostilities and focus their efforts on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, passed last October, not only granted the Treasury the authority to use \$350 billion in public funds to prevent a collapse of the financial system, but it also greatly expanded the Federal Reserve's policy toolkit in addressing the crisis through a somewhat obscure, but important, provision of the legislation. The bill authorized the Fed to begin paying interest on the reserves that commercial banks hold with the central bank. This ability has essentially allowed the Fed to establish a "floor" for the federal funds rate, the main lever of its economy-wide monetary policy stance, even while it greatly expands the provision of liquidity to various segments of the financial markets to address the crisis. To this end, the Fed has been increasing the asset side of its balance sheet through a variety of lending facilities and asset purchases. The scope of its lending has also been amplified by frequently invoking emergency powers under the Federal Reserve Act's "unusual and exigent circumstances" clause, which it has used to justify lending to important, non-depository financial institutions.

The Fed has made it clear that it will continue to expand its balance sheet to make sure that credit is available to consumers and small businesses and the integrity of the overall financial system is preserved. In recent months, for instance, the Fed has established new and innovative lending facilities intended to boost the flow of funding to the commercial paper market and key asset-backed security markets, it has committed itself to purchasing billions of mortgage-backed securities in order to keep mortgage rates low for the health of the housing market, and it has continued to play a key role in providing assistance to systemically important financial institutions. These actions on the part of the central bank have, in fact, come very close to replicating the original intent of the TARP program. And these actions, along with the deployment of the initial \$350 billion of TARP funding, have shown signs of being effective—the economy is still in a precarious state, but a systemic, and catastrophic, collapse of our financial and credit markets has been avoided.

My fear is that the second \$350 billion in TARP funding will go far beyond the original mission of preserving overall financial market stability, and instead will be used to fund a heavy-handed, neo-industrial policy. Various industries have already marshaled their lobbyists for a claim on these public dollars. And

with our Federal budget expected to reach historic levels this year, we cannot risk more public funds to be squandered.

In light of the Fed's vastly expanded policy options for addressing key sources of market turmoil going forward and their relative effectiveness—combined with the very real risk that more TARP funding will be used for an industrial policy—I am voting against the release of the second half of TARP funds. Although I am concerned about the Fed moving into new and expanded policy territory, that concern is tempered by the fact that the Fed is relatively insulated from politics and lobbyists and is more singularly focused on the stability and health of the financial system, which was my foremost reason for approving the original TARP funding last October.

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 Thursday, January 22, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 27

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the Department of Defense. SD-106
- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine investment securities fraud, focusing on regulator and oversight concerns. SD-538
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**
 To hold hearings to examine access to prevention and public health for high risk populations. TBD
- Judiciary**
 To hold hearings to examine health information technology (IT), focusing on protecting Americans' privacy in the digital age. SD-226

JANUARY 28

- 9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
 Business meeting to consider the nominations of James B. Steinberg, to be Deputy Secretary, and Jacob J. Lew, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, both of the Department of State. SD-419
- Veterans' Affairs**
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine veteran's disability compensation, focusing on the appeals process. SR-418
- 10 a.m.
Budget
 To hold hearings to examine federal response to the housing and financial crisis. SD-608
- Foreign Relations**
 To hold hearings to examine global climate change. SD-419
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**
 To hold hearings to examine lessons from the Mumbai, India terrorist attacks. SD-342
- Judiciary**
 Business meeting to consider the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr., to be Attorney General. SH-216