

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Monday, October 26, 2009, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 814 and "yea" on rollcall 815.

Additionally, I missed three recorded votes on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 816, "yea" on rollcall 817, and "yea" on rollcall 818.

### HONORING THE LATE ANGELA R. COPPOLA

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Angela R. Coppola, housewife and mother, and lifelong resident of Buffalo, New York. Mrs. Coppola was a homemaker who raised 10 children and was active in many community organizations. Angela Coppola passed into the arms of the Lord on July 18, 2009 at the age of 83.

Born Angela Sapienza on August 21, 1925 on Busti Avenue, on Buffalo's west side, she was the daughter of an immigrant from Sicily, Leonard Sapienza. Her father was born in the town of Ventimiglia di Sicilia, near Palermo Sicily, in 1894—and immigrated to Buffalo with his parents in 1900 at the age of 6. Mrs. Coppola graduated from Nardin Academy in 1942. She then earned an associate's degree from St. Mary's Business School in 1944. She married Joseph R. Coppola, also from Buffalo, in 1947 at Holy Angels Church. They had 13 children in 10 years—8 sons and two daughters: Michael, Leonard, Joey, Jack, the late Mary, Peter, Paul, Robert, Richard, and Donna.

Angela Coppola's life revolved around her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They are her lasting legacy. At the time of her death, Angela had 31 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren, with another on the way. The names of her grandchildren are as follows: Jennifer, Jill, Michelle, the late Joseph, Jeffery, Jamel, Christopher, Jacqui, Juliangela, Tommy, Katherine, Natalie, Eric, Bryan, Lindsey, Maria, Christine, Peter, Jr., Mark, Michael, Joseph, Laura, Robin, Kaitlin, Anthony, Janine, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Robbie, Christopher, Sarah, and Rebecca Angela. The names of her great-grandchildren so far are as follows: Serena, Arabella, Ryan, Miranda, Zachary, Hailee, and Nina Marie—with one due January 1, 2010.

Over the years, Angela Coppola was active in the Altar and Rosary Society of Christ the King Catholic Church in Snyder, the Seton Guild, the Women's Committee of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society and the Canisius College President's Council, among other organizations. She was one of the first in the Buffalo area to lecture for Weight Watchers. She also demonstrated T-Fal cookware in local department stores.

In November, 2008, Mrs. Coppola was honored to receive the Ernestine Nardin Distinguished Service Award at the President's Reception, Nardin Academy in Buffalo, NY. Mrs. Coppola was a frequent spectator at her children and grandchildren's sporting events over the years. In 2000, Christ the King School in Snyder presented her a trophy as Fan of the Millennium-Year.

Mrs. Coppola's husband, Joseph R. Coppola, Ph.D., died in 2003 after 56 years of marriage. Angela is survived by 3 younger brothers: Joseph, Nicholas and Leonard Sapienza, all residents of Buffalo, N.Y.

Madam Speaker, I thank you and our colleagues for providing this opportunity for me to honor the legacy of a dedicated Western New Yorker, and I know that you and all of our colleagues join with me in paying tribute to Mrs. Coppola's service and to her memory.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding for Delaware included as part of the final conference report for the FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, H.R. 2996:

Name of Project: Johnson's Corner Sanitary Sewer District Project, Sussex County, DE

Requesting Member: MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: EPA-STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sussex County Council

Address of Requesting Entity: 2 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Description of Request: \$300,000 to construct wastewater collection and transmission facilities to serve the Johnson's Corner Sanitary Sewer District, located near the Assawoman Bay in Sussex County, DE, which is one of Delaware's inland bays. The purpose of the project is to eliminate failing septic systems and extend wastewater service to over 400 residences, and reduce harmful nutrients from entering the Bay.

Name of Project: Turkey Run Interceptor Improvements, New Castle County, DE

Requesting Member: MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: EPA-STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Castle County

Address of Requesting Entity: 87 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720

Description of Request: \$300,000 to make capital improvements to the Turkey Run Interceptor sewer project. Funding will assist in accelerating the schedule of this critical project so as to provide protection for public health and the environment from problems caused by this failing sanitary sewer interceptor.

Name of Project: Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Requesting Member: MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: USFWS—Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Address of Requesting Entity: 11978 Turkle Pond Road, Milton, DE 19968

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 to support the President's FY2010 Budget request of \$1,000,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Land Acquisition, to acquire a 108-acre tract adjacent to the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Milton, Delaware. This project would protect a mix of wetlands and upland habitats and provide excellent endangered Delmarva fox squirrel habitat. The tract also provides important access for the Refuge for both recreation and management uses into an area of the Refuge that currently lacks access.

### HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA BOOSTER

#### HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Sierra Booster, published in Sierra County, California. The newspaper was first published in October 1949 by Hal Wright and his wife Allene. For over 50 years, Mr. Wright served his community through the continued publication of the Sierra Booster. Following her father's passing in July of 2000, Hal's daughter, Jan, took over the newspaper. For the past decade, Jan has continued her family's legacy as well as The Sierra Booster's commitment to serve the eastern Sierras.

Madam Speaker, The Sierra Booster exemplifies the ideal of a free press, one of this nation's greatest freedoms. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sierra Booster for its 60 years of continued service and wishing the newspaper continued success in the future.

• 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.

HONORING THE SANDY GROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Sandy Ground community in Staten Island, New York. It is the oldest community established by free slaves in North America, and still thrives today.

After slavery was abolished in the State of New York in 1827, freedmen from all over the state, as well as far away as Maryland and Virginia, settled in the area known since colonial times as Sandy Ground, which was located in the area around what is now the intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads in Rossville.

These early settlers were also skilled in the oyster trade, and brought this knowledge with them to Staten Island. Oyster harvesting was a major business on Staten Island during the 19th Century and was conducted mainly on the island's south shore. Sandy Ground also served as an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and is the oldest continuously settled free black community in the United States.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society, which preserves the history and physical surroundings of the Sandy Ground community and maintains a museum and library, was organized on February 28, 1980. The Museum and library contain letters, photographs, film, art, rare books, quilts and other archaeological artifacts. The Museum also possesses a rare surviving can of Tettorsalve, a beauty product manufactured by Harlem businesswoman Madame C. J. Walker, and a letter from W.E.B. DuBois.

The museum also sponsors arts-and-crafts sessions, a musical heritage series, a lecture series presented in Staten Island schools and churches, and a traveling lecture series to institutions around the country. The African-American quilt-making tradition is also continued through quilting workshops.

The Sandy Ground Historical Society has graciously lent us a quilt that we have hung proudly above the entryway to my personal office in Washington. The quilt depicts the history of strawberry farming on the land, which starts with two brothers named Moses and Silas Harris. They bought property circa 1850 in what is now Sandy Ground, with the intention of farming on it. Upon inspection of the land, they noted that the soil was sandy, but they found a plant that grew well in sandy soil: strawberries. They became so successful at growing strawberries that the town was first called "Harrisville," which later became Sandy Ground. Today there is a street in the Sandy Ground community called Harris Lane, named after the Harris Brothers. Wild strawberries still grow on the few open plots of land that are left in the area.

Sandy Ground is an important historical landmark, an asset to Staten Island, and an asset to the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DAVID W. TROUTMAN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. David W. Troutman of Akron, Ohio.

David (Dave) William Troutman, 67, passed away on October 26, 2009.

Dave was born on February 16, 1942 in Wooster, Ohio to George and Ruth Troutman. Most important to Dave was his beloved family.

He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Janet L. Troutman. He was a loving and devoted father to Michael (Danielle) Troutman and DeAnna (Thomas) Donaldson; a dotting grandfather to his precious grandchildren, Luke Donaldson and MacIntyre Troutman. He is also survived by his sisters, Hannah Onderack and Florence (James) Castner through whom his family legacy extends through his nieces and nephews, Alicia, Nicholas, Jennifer, Daniel, Katie, Chelsea, Aleem, and Sofia.

Dave's life was dedicated to serving his community, state and country. His accomplished career in law enforcement spanned over 40 years. He served as a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, Summit County Sheriff Deputy for 10 years, Barberton Chief Probation Officer for seven years, Summit County Sheriff for 14 years and finally served as U.S. Marshall for nine years at the request of then President Bill Clinton. From his early years attending high school in Barberton, Ohio and college at Miami (Ohio) University, Dave was committed to serving his community and helping others. Throughout his lifetime, he served in numerous appointed and elected public offices to include Coventry Township Trustee, Coventry Country Parks and Recreation Board Member, Summit County Sheriff, OPOTA Council Member, Ohio Organized Crime Commission Member, Ohio Athletic Commission Member and Kiwanis to name but a few. His leadership role in so many offices was not for public recognition as is typical of so many, but for his belief that he could serve others from such a position and lead others to public service. Because of his generosity and outstanding servitude, an exhaustive list of recognition and awards were bestowed upon him including the Cliff Skeen Award and Sheriff of the Year.

To have known Dave was to know a man of integrity, honesty and service. His love for people and community was shown daily as he always helped others when often no one else would. To say Dave personally touched the lives of thousands would be an understatement. His legacy of service and love for others and his lifelong example of honesty and integrity is priceless and inspiring to so many. How would Dave have us honor such a lifetime of example? By following that example and becoming great through helping others. Dave will be missed, loved and never forgotten. Ohio has truly lost one of its most beloved sons. We love and miss you Dave!

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, EPA Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission

Address of Requesting Entity: Fayette County Commission, 103 1st NW, Fayette, AL 35555

Description of Request: "Fayette County Reservoir \$6,000,000" The funding would be used for the construction of a water reservoir located in Fayette County that will serve as a water source for an area where residents are suffering from poor water quality. This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents of Fayette and surrounding counties. Taxpayer Justification: This project will provide a dependable supply of water to the 120,422 residents in Fayette County, Marion County, and Walker County.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the dedication and support of our military families, servicemembers, and the veterans who went before them.

When a servicemember joins the military, it is not a just a job; it is a family commitment to our country. As our country continues to deploy overseas, we see the impact it has on family members at home. The month of November is designated as Military Family Month. This observance provides an excellent opportunity to show support for our servicemembers and families as we pause and reflect on the contributions, support and patriotism they exhibit each day.

Military families continuously undergo tremendous challenges and it only begins when they find their loved ones deployed for long periods of time. During frequent moves, they effortlessly relocate their belongings, find new schools for their children, navigate the complex options for medical care, and solve myriad other challenges. They are truly resilient and strong.

It is an honor for me to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the service and support of some particular events in Northwest Florida in the coming weeks that will honor our veterans and educate our children about their heroism and sacrifice. On November 4, Blue Angels Elementary School will partner with the History Channel's Take a Veteran to School Day to

honor our veterans. The following week, both Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola will hold their annual Armed Forces Foundation national education initiative, "Operation Caring Classroom". During this event, the schools will be engaged in classroom activity the week of Veterans Day to learn about this holiday and reach out to military children nationwide. This year, 50 civilian elementary schools and 50 military elementary schools will participate in various activities during the week of Veterans Day to raise awareness and appreciation for our military families. The outpouring of support for these special events makes me proud to call Northwest Florida home.

Some of the events will help raise money to continue supporting our World War II Veterans. Both schools are raising money to sponsor multiple "Honor Flights". We just completed our fifth "Honor Flight" from the Emerald Coast on 21 October. We greeted 103 of our WWII Veterans as they stepped off the plane and watched many of them see their WWII Memorial for the first time. The charity pays for them to fly to Washington, DC and it's wonderful to see support for future trips.

Our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have sacrificed so much for our nation and deserve the highest level of respect. This nation owes you a debt of gratitude. Here on Capitol Hill, many of us felt it was time to organize a caucus with a focus on Military Families. On November 4, the Congressional Military Family Caucus will feature its inaugural event. The caucus will foster the interest of family members of the uniformed services by educating Congressional Members and staff on resources the military provides as well as discuss the barriers that a military family faces. The goal of the caucus is to address issues such as education, childcare, healthcare, spouse employment, and the effects of multiple deployments.

We all play an important part in recognizing military families, servicemembers, and veterans. I am humbled by the remarkable role each and every one of them play in the future of this Nation. The events held at Blue Angels Elementary School and Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola serve as a model for the entire country. In the 1st Congressional District of Florida, a district that has more veterans than any other in the nation, the events also serve as a reminder of our gratitude and respect.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
LATE DORIS POWELL

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Doris Powell served honorably in the United States Armed Services; and

Whereas, Doris Powell bravely served on active duty during World War II; and

Whereas, she was a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post #4713; and

Whereas, she served on the Morgan County School Board for 22 years; be it

Resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional Dis-

trict, I congratulate the late Doris Powell on her induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING SECRETARY JOHN  
MCHUGH

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our friend and colleague, John McHugh.

After a distinguished 16 year career in Congress, John now embarks on a new phase of his public service as Secretary of the United States Army. For many years, it has been my privilege to work with John as Co-Chair of the House Army Caucus. Together, we have worked to champion the needs of the United States Army in a time of great challenge for our country.

John McHugh's commitment to our service men and women and their families is second to none, and I have great confidence that he will serve them and our nation well as Army Secretary.

John has always earned the respect of his colleagues because he treated others with respect. He set a standard of public service that all of us would do well to follow. While this House is losing a valuable member, the country is gaining a principled advocate for those who wear the uniform.

I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 729, which expresses the sense of Congress that a day be designated to honor America's firefighters who have made enormous sacrifices through loss of life and limb in their service to protect our communities.

There are over 1 million firefighters in the U.S., and each time they respond to an emergency, they risk their own personal safety to help others. Each year, roughly 100 firefighters die in the line of duty.

The City of Houston has one of the largest fire departments in the country with almost 4,000 firefighters and about 100 fire stations. Since the modern-day Houston Fire Department was formed, over 60 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. Two of these died this year alone.

It is therefore imperative that we take this moment to show our appreciation for the services they provide and the sacrifices that so many have made.

As a cosponsor of this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 729, which calls for the President to formally commemorate these brave men and women by designating a National Firefighters Memorial Day.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of East Prairie, Missouri Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Entity: City of East Prairie, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 N. Washington St., East Prairie, Missouri 63845-1141

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$200,000 to rebuild East Prairie, Missouri's wastewater and storm water infrastructure. The existing 84-year-old water infrastructure is crumbling under the streets due to sinkholes which have plagued the community. The sinkholes are destroying box culverts, which is posing a threat to streets and houses in East Prairie. The money procured will pay for the construction of new stormwater sewers. A minimum of 45 percent of the total project cost will come directly from the City of East Prairie, Missouri.

HONORING CENTRE AVENUE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Centre Avenue Elementary School and congratulate them for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

Centre Avenue Elementary School has been successful in meeting the highest standards of the New York State assessments, with test results consistently meeting the state's expectations by having a high number of students performing at maximum levels. Centre Avenue succeeds in providing an atmosphere where students foster a desire for lifelong learning and are motivated to reach their highest potential academically, creatively, socially, physically and emotionally.

Centre Avenue is committed to providing an educational environment where safety permeates. Students are encouraged to expand their social and emotional development with involvement in groups and participation in any of the numerous clubs offered. A supplemental aspect of their curriculum is to teach the students social responsibility. A school-wide Jump-A-Thon supported the American Heart Association, money was collected to assist Island Harvest in their quest to end hunger on Long Island, the Toys for Tots program helped disadvantaged families have a happier holiday, and the Food Drive helped restock the supplies at the Ronald McDonald House.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children. Our community and our nation, are enhanced by the contributions of high achieving students like those at Centre Avenue Elementary School. Additionally, I would like to recognize the work of the teachers and administrators who dedicate their lives to their students. The staff is the back-bone of the student's success and I thank them for all that they do on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to the Centre Avenue Elementary School.

---

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I would like to submit a listing of the congressionally-directed projects I requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2996, the FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of American Falls Wastewater System Improvements  
Amount Requested: \$300,000  
Account: EPA/STAG  
Recipient: City of American Falls  
Recipient's Address: 550 N. Oregon Trail, American Falls, ID 83211-1800

Description: The city's recently completed wastewater facilities planning study evaluated numerous options to address the city's wastewater infrastructure deficiencies and meet U.S. EPA and IDEQ regulations. Based on input from the city, IDEQ, citizens of American Falls, and the consulting engineers performing the study, it was determined that a new wastewater treatment facility incorporating membrane technologies was the best solution to meet the needs of the city. Such a treatment facility utilizes state-of-the-art treatment technology that would be able to meet current and anticipated future State and Federal requirements. In addition, it would provide future flexibility to the city for pursuing other treated wastewater disposal methods. Total project cost is over \$10 million. The people of American Falls will be absorbing the majority of costs for this project.

Project Name: City of Buhl Wastewater System Improvements  
Amount: \$750,000  
Account: EPA/STAG  
Recipient: City of Buhl  
Recipient's Address: 203 North Broadway, Buhl, ID 83316

Description: The city is periodically exceeding the NPDES limitations under the Clean Water Act and was recently fined by EPA for non-compliance of their pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) IDEQ and EPA have mandated that the city build a new wastewater treatment center. Buhl, a town of less than 5,000 residents, recently passed a bond election for \$15 million to help pay for the required improvements to their water system. The loan funds

will be a burden to the residents—many of whom are elderly (19% of the community) and the majority of whom are low to moderate income—and will increase monthly water bills by over \$100, but even this will be unsustainable without additional assistance. Funding for this project will enable the City build a new wastewater treatment center that would meet the Federal and State mandates imposed on the community.

Project Name: Historic Old Pen Site Stabilization Project

Amount: \$150,000 8 604

Account: National Park Service/Save America's Treasures

Recipient: Idaho State Historical Society

Recipient's Address: 2205 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

Description: This project will provide stabilization to the Old Idaho State Penitentiary historic site, which is operated by the Idaho State Historical Society. The Old Pen is one of the West's most significant prison sites and one of the most visited cultural facilities in Idaho. It thus plays a key role in the economic vitality of Boise and the Treasure Valley. Funding would be used for work needed immediately to stabilize the site. In addition, funding would be used for an historic structures report to help better anticipate future maintenance and repair needs before they become emergency situations.

Project Name: Idaho Sage-Grouse Management Plan

Amount: \$1,000,000

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service/ESA Resource Management

Recipient: Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Recipient's Address: 300 N. 6th Street, Boise, ID 83702

Description: Sage-grouse are on the verge of being listed under the Endangered Species Act, with a decision on listing expected this spring. Idaho is taking proactive steps to recover this species before a listing is required. The management plan, which is a partnership with private landowners, is an attempt to be wise stewards of the nation's wildlife without being compelled to do so by law.

Project Name: Piva Parcel Land Acquisition  
Amount: \$400,000

Account: USFS/Land Acquisition

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used to enable the Forest Service to acquire the 160-acre Piva parcel from a willing seller so that it can be used for public recreation and access to the Redfish Lake recreation area from the town of Stanley. The Forest Service currently has a conservation easement on the property, but acquiring the land is necessary to carry out planned improvements.

Project Name: SNRA Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Amount: \$1,200,000

Account: Capital Improvements and Maintenance (Trail Construction)

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used for trail construction, maintenance, and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Of the

funds appropriated for trail maintenance and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, \$500,000 is for trail improvements; \$500,000 is for maintenance of existing motorized trails and areas; and \$200,000 is for the improvement of two existing trails to provide primitive wheelchair access at Murdock Creek and Phyllis Lake.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects in my district that have received funding in the Conference Report accompanying the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

---

#### IN HONOR OF THE COWELL LIME WORKS HISTORIC DISTRICT

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of California at Santa Cruz's historic lime-producing district and the unveiling of the permanent National Register of Historic Places plaque. The installation of this plaque, which has been the result of many years of hard work by local historians and the campus, marks its permanent habitation on a base of Cowell Ranch limestone on the college campus. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I am honored to extend to the UCSC campus the gratitude of Congress and the American people for this historic event.

UC Santa Cruz is now the only higher education institution in California that has a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The school has taken an important step in preserving the history and significance of the largest center of lime-production in Northern California during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These historic buildings and features have a special historic value because they represent the diverse set of facilities stemming from lime-processing, operations, and worker-support. Furthermore, the district was instrumental in the economic and physical development of the Monterey Bay region during the late 19th century and the development of California cities after the Gold Rush during the early 20th century.

These lands were once part of Henry Cowell's Ranch, where industrialists produced mortar, plaster, whitewash and other much needed materials for a number of other industries in the region. In addition to owning the lime-production sites that can be found scattered around the UC Santa Cruz campus, Cowell also owned dairies and cattle ranches that extended throughout Northern California. He was involved in banking, real estate, shipping, and warehousing.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to uphold this historic district as a model of maintaining our state's historical integrity. Historical spaces like these are an example of what makes our community a national leader in the preservation of lands which continue to shape our society. I know I speak for the House of Representatives in saluting the UCSC community on this momentous occasion.

## HEALTH CARE AND OUR NATION'S SENIORS

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, as we consider health care reform, we have a responsibility to protect the best interests of our nation's seniors and ensure we do not harm the health care they already receive.

Included in the current government takeover of health care are massive cuts to Medicare Advantage which will result in a loss of health care for millions of seniors.

For seniors living on fixed incomes, the prospect of being forced to pay more for health care is truly frightening.

But the Congressional Budget Office has reported the Democrat plan will increase seniors' Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade.

Medicare finances are rapidly deteriorating and we should be working on real solutions which ensure the long-term financial stability of Medicare.

Madam Speaker, a government-run health care system is not the answer to our health care problems, and it certainly is not the answer when it is paid for on the backs of our nation's seniors.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2996, "Making appropriations for the Department of Interior, environment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: Save America's Treasures

Project Amount: \$250,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blount Mansion Association, 200 W. Hill Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902

Description of Request: The funding would be used to upgrade and improve the National Historic Landmark.

## HONORING BOB BEVERLY

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, every community across America has its local icons—women and men whose dedication and commitment to service improve our quality of life and strengthen the bonds between us—regardless of party affiliation. Bob Beverly, who recently passed away, was such a man. He was also a friend and a veteran legislator in

the South Bay, the region of Los Angeles which I represent.

Before Bob made his way to Los Angeles, he served in the Marine Corps during World War II. Following the war, Bob moved to Manhattan Beach where he became Mayor and served for three terms. But more than half of Bob's time in public service—in fact almost a quarter of his life—was spent representing the South Bay as its longest-serving state legislator.

Many people know Bob Beverly for his service as Minority Leader in the State Senate during Ronald Reagan's tenure as Governor. In that role, he left a profound and permanent impact on countless lives throughout the South Bay.

Bob was an enormously popular, responsive and effective leader. His career overlapped with legendary Los Angeles Congressman Alphonzo Bell, who pursued a similar style of bipartisan leadership. Such comity—and a willingness to reach across the aisle—has become all too rare in Washington. But I continue to believe it is a critical element when confronting our toughest problems.

I am proud to have worked early in my Congressional career with Bob on issues of importance to the South Bay. His humility and quiet commitment to issues affecting his constituents will be missed—and not forgotten.

## A TRIBUTE TO ELMER WINTER

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Elmer Winter, a noted Milwaukee philanthropist, entrepreneur, artist, and author. In 1948, Mr. Winter cofounded Manpower, Inc., based in Milwaukee, WI and today the largest temporary employer in the world.

Elmer Winter was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 6, 1912. His father was a clothing merchant and belonged to a small, liberal Jewish community in Milwaukee in the 1920s. He was educated in Milwaukee Public Schools, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in economics as well as a law degree. He practiced law in partnership with his brother-in-law, Aaron Scheinfeld.

Manpower began with the illness of their secretary: Winter and Scheinfeld were frantic to find a typist in order to finish a legal brief for the state Supreme Court. The deadline was met only because a former secretary worked until dawn. The partners knew that other businesses must face these types of challenges and launched the temporary help agency with an investment of \$7000. Manpower is now a multibillion-dollar company with 30,000 employees in 4,100 offices throughout 82 countries.

Mr. Winter had many community-building interests such as improving the central city of Milwaukee, including its schools. "I am very much concerned about the movement of corporate executives away from public schools to charter and voucher schools," he said in 2000. "Corporations have forgotten about the fact that we have 100,000 young people in the public school system that need help". Mr. Winter considered jobs as the bedrock for any so-

cial reform because a job meant a better place to live, streets that are safe, and kids who are out of mischief. In his spare time, he created art and wrote 13 published books. As a painter and sculptor his work was displayed throughout the United States and Israel.

His efforts included everything from the Youthpower Jobs Program to getting business-donated computers refurbished at the state women's prison at Taycheedah for MPS classrooms. Mr. Winter founded the Milwaukee Center for Independence, which serves people with disabilities and is one of Milwaukee's largest nonprofit agencies. He served as a national president of the American Jewish Committee and worked on behalf of the Jewish community on both the national and international level. Mr. Winter formed and led the Committee for the Economic Growth of Israel, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding trade relationships between Israel and the United States.

Mr. Winter was married to Nannette Rosenberg for 54 years and together they raised three daughters, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Nannette passed away in 1990. In 1992 he married Hope Melamed. Mr. Winter retired as president of Manpower in 1976. He drove daily to the office he maintained at Manpower's headquarters in Milwaukee until shortly before his death on October 22, 2009, at the age of 97. Madam Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss of a valued native son with the passing of Mr. Winter. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements. I mourn his loss and salute his legacy to our community and the world.

## HONORING DUDLEY OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the woman known to hundreds of Sonoma County veterans as simply "Dudley." Dudley recently retired as a county Veterans Service Officer after more than 37 years and is taking with her the respect and admiration of a grateful nation.

Dudley is herself a veteran, joining the Army directly out of high school in 1962. She describes this period of her life as "the best thing that ever happened to her." It was during this time that she developed her lifelong appreciation for and dedication to the men and women who serve our country in uniform.

A six-and-a-half year stint as a flight attendant for several airlines that declared bankruptcy left her stranded and unemployed in Sonoma County. To the good fortune of every veteran in the area, she soon found work as a clerk typist in the Veterans Service Office in 1972. Four short years later, she was promoted to a Veterans Claim Worker and from that point forward, became the champion of every veteran with whom she worked.

She was one of the first to recognize that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was severely affecting the ability of many of our veterans to fully function after returning from combat. She

worked relentlessly with the Department of Veterans Affairs and within the county veteran's service organizations to have PTSD recognized as a disability and was eventually successful.

Throughout her 37-year career, she has given specialized training presentations at the state and national level on procedures for filing claims with the VA for specific disabilities. She has been honored and recognized for her work by the Vietnam Veterans of America, receiving the organization's highest honor, the Commendation Medal, in 1999. The California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America presented her with its Member of the Year award in 2000.

Dudley also served the veterans community by organizing the United Veterans Parade Committee to participate with floats and veterans groups in Santa Rosa's largest civic parade and by organizing the United Veterans Council POW/MIA ceremony to honor former prisoners of war and those missing in action from Sonoma County.

Madam Speaker, Dudley is a living example that one person can make a difference. There is no greater champion of veterans in our two Congressional Districts and it is therefore appropriate that we honor and express our gratitude to her today and wish her well in her retirement.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform, I am committed to protecting taxpayers' money and providing greater transparency and a fully accountable process. The Conference Report on H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains the following funding:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP

Account: National Park Service—Construction

Legal Name Entity Receiving Funding: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District  
Address: Moccasin Bend Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

Description of Request: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, a unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, has a rich and varied cultural history with evidence of occupation dating back to the earliest human cultures in North America. Moccasin Bend was designated as a unit of the National Park Service to preserve the area's rich heritage for future generations. There are no facilities for public enjoyment of these nationally significant resources. Moccasin Bend National Archeological District received \$500,000 for design and construction of an Interpretive Center and educational exhibits to promote awareness of the archeological district.

Distribution of funding:

Design development and construction—100%

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grant

Legal Name Requesting Entity: City of Harrogate, Tennessee

Address: 138 Harrogate Crossing, Harrogate, Tennessee 37752

Description of Request: The Mayor and City Council of Harrogate requested funding to extend a wastewater collection system to the Tri-State Health and Rehabilitation Center, residences and businesses. Upgraded sewer capabilities are critical to support the increasing residential and commercial development in Harrogate. The proposed expansion will allow residents in the area to have safe, adequate wastewater service. The City of Harrogate received \$500,000 for the wastewater improvements.

Distribution of funding:

Construction—83%

Survey/Fees—1%

Engineering—6%

Inspection—3%

Project Contingency—4%

Environment Review—1%

Administration—2%

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 28, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 820. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 820: "yes"—Welcoming to the United States and to Washington, DC, His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch on his upcoming trip on October 20, 2009, through November 6, 2009.

#### HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS

### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, as Veterans Day approaches, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of brave troops who have worn our nation's uniform and particularly to the 700,000 who now live in Georgia.

Today's American veterans are part of a proud legacy that dates back to the founding of our nation, independence won with the blood and sacrifice of underfed, undertrained, under-equipped colonists hungry for the taste of freedom. That bank of Patriots gave birth to the greatest nation in history.

Our 19th century veterans pushed our nation's boundaries across the continent, from sea to shining sea, and they patched our nation back together after it was ripped apart by a civil war that left more than 500,000 dead.

At the dawn of the 20th century, our veterans again led the way as the United States met its destiny as the greatest of world powers. We did not deploy our mighty forces to pillage the world's riches. Instead we put American lives and treasure on the line in the

service of mankind, fighting the scourges of military dictatorships, fascism, communism and terrorism. Never before has the world's greatest power acted so selflessly and so compassionately on behalf of those in need from all points on the globe.

Our soldiers fought, bled and died from Pearl Harbor to Paris, from the Balkans to Baghdad, from Seoul to Saigon. They fought in defense of freedom; they fought on behalf of human dignity; they fought against genocide; they fought to right wrongs. Most important, they fought to protect the American people and their way of life.

On Veterans Day, we salute those who fought for this nation, from our senior veterans who delivered victory in WWII to our brave men and women coming home today from Iraq and Afghanistan. When the call of duty sounded, they answered. They put liberty over life, and they put their countrymen above themselves.

We know our veterans bear the scars of war, the pains of wounds physical, mental and emotional. We know they faced down horror, loss and sacrifice beyond compare.

And we know they did it for us. The American people cannot repay the debt we owe to those who served. We honor them on this Veterans Day 2009, and may we reflect on their greatness every time we raise the Stars and Stripes, every time we sing the National Anthem, every time we place our hands on our hearts to say the Pledge of Allegiance, and every time we thank God for the birthright of liberty we inherited as Americans.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, October 26, 2009, I was not present for 2 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Roll No. 814—"yea";

Roll No. 815—"yea."

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING LEWIS BAKER

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,  
Whereas, Lewis Baker served honorably in the United States Armed Services; and

Whereas, Lewis Baker used his 20-month capture by German forces in World War II as motivation to help his fellow veterans at home; and

Whereas, Lewis Baker is an advocate for countless POWs and widows and has helped numerous veterans receive their benefits; and  
Whereas, at 89-years old he still performs his Honor Guard duty; be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lewis Baker on his induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

## LINCOLN'S DEBT LETTER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, history has a tendency to repeat itself, and those clever enough to comprehend that fact learn from mistakes the first time they occur and avoid them there after. In 1848, Abraham Lincoln received a request from his step-brother, John D. Johnston, for \$80. What seems to be a relatively small amount of money in current times proved to be an immense amount in the 1800s, roughly equating to \$1800 in current U.S. dollars. Having been fooled into giving Johnston money before Lincoln refused to play the role of a charity because his step-brother proved to be a lazy and idle man. Rather than spend the money he once received from Lincoln wisely on his family farm, he wasted it frivolously. Bailing his own family out was not a practice Lincoln took part in because those who asked for money were not deserving of it. Lincoln suggested that his idle step-brother spend his time working for his pay, which would alleviate all his debt and his labor would produce a reward. His step-brother refused to work for his money and wanted it to be handed to him, which seems very familiar in today's society.

History does indeed repeat itself and it appears that the requests of people like John D. Johnston are becoming more frequent, and rather than asking one's own family, they feel that the government is obligated to pay. It is evident that Lincoln did not favor a welfare system or bail-out plan, where the government handed over money to people and made it appear like it was their job to do so. It would be wise for today's politicians to learn from history and take a page out of Lincoln's book because handing money to people who do not work for it is only promoting an endless cycle of indolence, like that of John D. Johnston.

HONORING MAEVEEN MARIE  
BEHAN**HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible public servant and community leader who has made an indelible mark on the Sonoran Desert region and on the community of Tucson, Arizona. Maeveen Marie Behan has changed the face of Pima County and will leave a legacy of successful community-based conservation planning and endangered species protection throughout the country by the work she has accomplished in Southern Arizona.

Maeveen Marie Behan, JD, PhD, was born July 13, 1961 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Maeveen lived in numerous states as a child and graduated from the University of Georgia with a BA in English. While in high school, Maeveen was the first woman in Georgia to break the six-minute mile. She continued her athletic prowess on the tennis court and has always loved to run races in any city where she vacationed. She is a rabid lifelong Alabama football and Chapel Hill basketball fan.

Maeveen met the love of her life, Harry Goldwasser, while they were students together at the University of Georgia. Harry and Maeveen married in 1986. Maeveen is devoted to her bloodhounds, "Sweet Peas" Charlie and Hermione, and has written a series of children's stories based on her dogs.

After Maeveen received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law, and her husband Harry completed his residency at UNC Chapel Hill, they moved to Arizona, where they lived in Chinle while Maeveen worked for the Navajo Nation. They moved to Tucson in 1992 and Maeveen went to work for Pima County, where her career has encompassed numerous projects. In December 2006, Maeveen received her doctorate in Arid Lands Research Sciences researching the role of folklore in conservation; the title of her dissertation is Science and Lore in Animal Law. Reading up to four books a day, her interests are extremely diverse. She relishes mysteries, cartoons, myths, fables, and folklore throughout history.

Her extraordinary intelligence, integrity and high standards are reflected in everything she sets her hand to. Maeveen has accomplished the culmination of her life's work over the last decade as the principal author and guiding light of Pima County's national award winning Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and as the first Director of the County's Office of Conservation Science and Environmental Policy. Maeveen is a prolific author, writing dozens of reports for the plan and directing over 200 others covering a wide variety of topics. Maeveen has been the leader in developing the County's efforts to preserve the key biological resources of the Sonoran Desert through a precedent setting Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. Maeveen has provided leadership for the community response to the listing of the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl as a federally endangered species. The result has been hailed as a national model by local, regional and national media, planning and government agencies, and non-profit organizations for how to respond to the dilemma posed by urban growth and living with the environment. She recommended that the County broaden the scope of discussions to other important and vulnerable species as well as infrastructure, taxation, history, archeology, open space, housing, water, recreation and ranching. Instead of limiting the response to the boundaries of unincorporated Pima County, Maeveen suggested that the Board of Supervisors open the process to all affected entities, including ranchers, developers, environmental groups, tribal entities, interested citizens, and elected leaders of the incorporated entities.

Maeveen Behan's efforts have catalyzed support for open space acquisition, funding for repairing wildlife corridors, improved cooperation among jurisdictions, strengthening of Federal land commitments, and revisions of County policies and procedures.

Maeveen personally attended over 600 meetings with citizens and elected officials about the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and made herself available night and day for over 3 years. She also inspired the science community to participate in developing the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in a way that honored their integrity as scientists without intrusion of jurisdictional concerns or political pressure from interest groups. Maeveen

also created the Sonoran Desert Kids program to educate and inspire generations of young citizens about the importance of the desert ecosystem.

In 2001 the Board adopted the Conservation Lands System as the long-term, locally adopted vision for balancing economic integrity and protecting natural resources and cultural heritage in Pima County. Pima County is completing the final draft of its Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for submittal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Her commitment to transparency in government and to an open public process involving scientists, conservationists, business interests, multiple jurisdictions, government agencies and other stakeholders has been a model for the nation. Her keen insight, sense of duty, and humor inspires us all. Maeveen's professional and life mantra has always been, "Just do the right thing".

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Conference report accompanying H.R. 2996—Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: NPS, Acquisitions, \$1,500,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Conservation Fund

Address of Requesting Entity: 4500 Hugh Howell Rd., Suite 470, Atlanta, GA 30084

Description of Request: "Little River Canyon" Taxpayer justification—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to allow the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire key parcels, only through willing sellers, within the new acquisition boundary of the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF WALLY'S HOUSE OF  
EMBERS**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Wally's House of Embers. Located in Wisconsin Dells, House of Embers has been attracting local residents and hungry travelers since 1959. Offering much more than just legendary hickory smoked barbecue ribs, House of Embers has been an institution in Wisconsin's most popular tourist destination for decades.

When Wally and Barbara Obois purchased Ray's Barbeque from Ray Grieves in 1959 and renamed it House of Embers, the restaurant was little more than four walls and a dirt floor. But year after year, Mr. and Mrs. Obois and their five children worked tirelessly

to bring family tradition and a fine dining experience to their customers. Whether in the original building or the current one built in 1976, they continuously emphasized the importance of serving quality food with the highest level of customer service. And with a unique collection of specialty dining rooms, each having a personality all its own, House of Embers quickly became a staple in the community and continues to attract people from all over Wisconsin and beyond.

After Wally and Barbara finally hung up their aprons in 1998 and set sail for retirement, three of their children purchased the restaurant with the intention of carrying on the Obois family tradition of fine dining. Mark and Mike Obois, graduates of the Culinary Institute of America, and their sister Deb Christensen, proved to be a successful trio as House of Embers ushered in the new millennium. In 2004, the late Dennis Getto, a restaurant critic for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, best characterized the famous Obois family ribs when he wrote, "My first bite told me that this was real barbecue—the hickory smoke had permeated the rib meat and enriched its flavor."

For exceptional longevity and superb originality, I congratulate Wally's House of Embers on a half century of providing a uniquely Wisconsin dining experience. The Obois tradition of fine dining is a symbol of the family's dedication to serving our community not only great food, but also laughter, joy, and a friendly smile. I wish the Oboises and everyone involved the very best and I look forward to many more years of success.

HONORING ELKHART GENERAL HOSPITAL ON ITS 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Elkhart General Hospital, celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving the good people of Elkhart, Indiana and the surrounding communities.

For 100 years, Elkhart General Hospital has been providing comprehensive medical care to residents of Elkhart, Indiana and the surrounding communities. Its dedicated administrators, medical professionals, and community partners focus on the hospital's vision of "creating a healthier community." Through their recognition that good health requires a holistic approach, the devoted members of the Elkhart General family work diligently to provide healthcare that embraces body, mind, and spirit.

On March 29, 1909, Elkhart General Hospital was officially incorporated. Funds were raised, and a brand new hospital was built and opened to serve the community that same year. In 1953, the hospital had 100 beds and 3,170 operations were performed—twice the national average for a facility that size.

Over the years, Elkhart General has grown with the community it serves. In 1965, it completed a four-story addition, increasing its capacity to 310 beds. In 1980, Computerized Tomography (CT) scan equipment was installed, and the move to increase the hospital's cancer care services was underway.

Today, Elkhart General is an independent, not-for-profit, community-owned healthcare system in the City of Elkhart. The 325 bed hospital serves more than 19,000 patients each month. Its professional medical staff is comprised of 330 physicians representing 30 medical specialties, and over 2,000 dedicated nurses, technical, administrative, and support staff. Together, this team provides a wealth of expert medical care and counseling to residents of this diverse community.

So today, on behalf of the citizens of the Second District, I would like to congratulate the fine medical staff, dedicated administrative personnel, essential support employees, and community volunteers who make Elkhart General Hospital an outstanding resource for complete medical care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, October 22, 2009 and Friday, October 23, 2009.

On Thursday, October 22, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 798 (On ordering the previous question), "no" on rollcall vote No. 799 (on agreeing to H. Res. 846, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 800 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 797), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 801 (on Agreeing to the Broun (GA) Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 802 (on Agreeing to the Kaptur Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 803 (on Agreeing to the Klein (FL) Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 804 (on Agreeing to the Titus Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 805 (on Agreeing to the Heinrich Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 806 (on Agreeing to the Himes Amendment to H.R. 3585), "no" on rollcall vote No. 807 (on passage of H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 808 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 175), "no" on rollcall vote No. 809 (On ordering the previous question on H. Res. 853), "no" on rollcall vote No. 810 (on agreeing to H. Res. 853, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3619), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 811 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 836)

On Friday, October 23, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 812 (on agreeing to the Kratovil amendment to H.R. 3619), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 813 (on passage of H.R. 3619).

HONORING PASTOR WILLARD L. SAUNDERS, JR. AND FIRST LADY DELICIA W. SAUNDERS

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Pastor Willard

L. Saunders, Jr. and Delicia W. Saunders for their 15 years of outstanding, dedicated service to the Created For So Much More Worship Center.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Pastor Saunders earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Frostburg State College and a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Loyola College in Education Administration. He went on to serve as a Vice Principal in the Baltimore City school system.

In 1994, after the passing of his father, the late Willard L. Saunders, Sr., Saunders was appointed Pastor of Created For So Much More Worship Center. Pastor Saunders immediately began to implement the vision he so clearly saw for the Created For So Much More Worship Center. This included expanding the center to allow for over 2,000 congregates, a chapel, and several conference rooms. Expanding the center allowed Pastor and First Lady Saunders to establish several community programs such as General Education Degree and computer training classes, which are offered free of charge to the community. Internationally, Pastor Saunders fathers numerous churches in Uganda and Kenya.

First Lady Saunders works steadfastly with Women of Destiny, a moving force throughout the Created For So Much More Worship Center that encourages women to engage in community activism. Her leadership and devotion to this program is a remarkable example for other women. First Lady Saunders is currently working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree and she is scheduled to graduate in May 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Pastor Willard L. Saunders, Jr. and First Lady Delicia W. Saunders for their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people in their community. Pastor and First Lady Saunders have set a standard of excellence and deserve the utmost gratitude for their hard work and achievements.

HONORING GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM OF MAINE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Gifford's Ice Cream of Skowhegan, Maine.

Gifford's Ice Cream recently won the "World's Best Chocolate Ice Cream" award at the World Dairy Expo. This Maine product earned a perfect score and was the only product that did. A few days after winning the Dairy Expo Award, Gifford's was named as a "Best Place to Work" by the Griffin Report on Food Marketing.

Gifford's Ice Cream stands have been Maine landmarks for almost 30 years. In 1980, Gifford's opened its first location in Skowhegan, Maine and has now expanded their business to five locations across the state. Even though they have grown, Gifford's of Maine has never forgotten to give back. Gifford's remains the family owned, community oriented business that it always has been. They have sponsored Maine youth soccer and supported local charities like the Lions Club. Gifford's also donates 10 percent of their profits, company wide, to various organizations

that support healthy and active children's activities.

Gifford's Ice Cream shops also play a key role in supporting other local businesses. Gifford's buys all of its milk and cream from Maine dairy farmers who pledge not to use artificial growth hormones. They also use locally grown products, like Maine wild blueberries and Maine made maple syrup, in many of their great flavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gifford's Ice Cream of Maine on their recent awards and nearly 30 years of successful business.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE NEW NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE AND THE INDUCTION OF FIFTEEN LEGENDS OF STREET BALL TO THE NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launching of the new National Street Basketball Professional League and to also honor my friends and our nation's legends of Street Ball. National Street Basketball Association is a non-profit sports league organization headquartered in New York City. The corporation was established to promote amateur and professional street basketball and provide the highest competition platform of specialized league teams globally.

National Street Basketball Association offers professional basketball athletes (21 & older) who meet NSBA criteria with try-out opportunities to represent one of the statewide professional league member team divisions and compete on a national platform. In addition, the company provides amateur basketball services for youth, such as camps, clinics, tournaments and Life-Skill workshops. The company also devises custom training post and pre-season workouts to prepare athletes for their next level whether professional, college, varsity or AAU basketball.

National Street Basketball Association coordinates with elected officials, district leaders, local community and outreach organizations that support youth in sports. The company also sanctions local, regional and national "Street-ball" tournament organizations worldwide. Beginning the summer of 2009, the NSBA will host "Pro-Ball Classic", an unlimited men's basketball tournament nationwide through which they will select, try-out and establish the first six (6) member teams to represent their city and compete in their professional league. Each tournament city is divided in three (3) divisions, East Coast, West Coast and the Midwest with plans of adding a Men's International Division by 2010 when the league tips off.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I want to salute the 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees to the National Street Basketball Association, our Playground Legends of Street Ball: Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Ernie Brown, Freddy Crawford, Miles Dorch, Howie Evans, Artie

Georges, Leroy Hendricks, Bobby Hunter, Zack Husser, John Isaacs, Floyd Lane, Johnny Matthis, Bob McCullough, Tony Rosa, and Reggie Threat Sr. Congratulations to my all of my friends and role models that grace the courts of our playgrounds and basketball Courts throughout Harlem, New York City, the Nation, the world and in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

For two consecutive weekends in October 2009, the National Street Basketball Association will launch its first nationwide annual fundraiser initiative, "Hoops For Hope." This unique instructional basketball skills clinic will provide for young male and female athletes with the basic fundamentals of basketball, refine those skills already learned, Life-Skill workshops on Drug Prevention, Peer Pressure, Conflict & Resolution and allow for drills and play situations. This initiative will not only educate but rally the support of these youth athletes and further assist the American Cancer Society's efforts to help those suffering from this disease, become fearless and overcome it.

This spectacular event plans to feature guest speakers from the medical field, professional athletes from the NSBA, and district and community leaders in support of raising awareness of Cancer, encourage screening for early detection and promote basketball as an alternative to destructive leisure time activities and way to stay physically fit for life. In addition, the American Cancer Society Teen Challenge will conduct Health Workshops on Tobacco Control and Teen Smoking.

Let me congratulate and recognize Kim Champion, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Street Basketball Association. Kim is a former veteran Sports Executive, President of Creating Athletes For America Inc. with over 20 years of sports marketing and management expertise. She is also the founder of Women of Excellence Awards, Playground Hall of Fame, and the "Pro-Ball" National Basketball Classic tournaments.

Finally, let me also congratulate and recognize Jose Morales, Executive Vice President of the National Street Basketball Association. Jose, a legendary basketball executive in his years of basketball has headed up some of the biggest Street ball leagues on the East Coast, such as Triple Threat/Ron Artest Youth League and the FLAMES and Queensbridge Unlimited Pro-Leagues. He also helped promote and showcase some of NBA's top athletes in the league today including: Ron Artest, Rafer Alston, Lamar Odum, Eric Barkley and other all stars of the hardwood.

INTRODUCING THE CONGRESS 2014 COMMISSION ACT OF 2009

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Congress 2014 Commission Act of 2009. This bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on the size of the House of Representatives, the method by which representatives are chosen, and opportunities for greater citizen participation in our democratic process.

The fact of the matter is that the United States is the second least representative de-

mocracy in the world. The House of Representatives has not changed size in 99 years. During those 99 years the United States has added four additional states. During those 99 years the population of the United States has tripled. And yet, during those 99 years, the House has only rarely even considered increasing its size.

The United States prides itself on the success of our democratic experiment, and as the world's first democratic Nation we claim the title of "Leader of the Free World." Unfortunately, when it comes to democratic representation, we are not the leader. Indeed, we are second to last amongst the major democracies. Only India, with a population of almost 1.2 billion people, has a less representative government. Britain, France, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Japan, Australia, Nigeria, Brazil—all these countries have more representative legislatures than the United States.

I am proud to represent almost 700,000 residents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District. I am pleased to devote my time and efforts working here in Washington on their behalf, and I do enjoy the opportunities that I have to connect directly with my constituents back home. But my counterparts in the countries I just mentioned represent far less people than I do, ensuring that their constituents not only have easier access to their representatives but also the ability to develop stronger personal relationships.

Madam Speaker, 99 years is too long to go without making necessary improvements to our democratic process. Enlarging the House of Representatives is an essential step in that direction. An increase in the size of the House will have a profound impact on our political system. The benefits include greater access and personal interaction for our constituents, reduced campaign spending, smaller Congressional districts, and, most importantly, better representation for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN RUNYON

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jean Runyon, someone who helped shape the Sacramento community for more than 50 years. Jean was a dear friend and tremendous advocate of Sacramento. I know that countless people join me as I say goodbye to a truly wonderful person. I ask that my colleagues join with me in remembering a remarkable woman.

Jean was born March 6, 1927, in Concordia Kansas. She was the only child of Rowena Thornberg Hamilton, an actress, and Brutus Kerr Hamilton, a 1920 U.S. decathlon champion and Olympic silver medalist. Her father moved the family to California where he worked for the University of California Berkeley for 32 years as both a track and field coach and athletic director. Her father gave her the limitless energy she was always known for and was the one closest to her heart.

Jean studied drama at the UC Berkeley and wanted to be an actress, but instead of pursuing a career in acting she married S. Mercer

Runyon Jr., her college sweetheart, and moved to Sacramento in 1947. They would have two wonderful children, Stephen Runyon and Elizabeth Mulligan. Jean's first attempt at public relations came when Sacramento newspaper executive Eleanor McClatchy asked her to help the Music Circus Theater get publicity. Jean was acting in the Music Circus performances at the time and blended her knowledge of acting and natural skill at publicity with great success.

She was a woman who knew many firsts. After starting her own PR firm in 1960 she was named Man of the Year by the Sacramento Public Relations Round Table in 1962. In 1978 she was the first woman appointed to the Sutter Community Hospitals board of trustees. Jean also became Sacramento's first female Rotarian. In 1988 she was named Sacramentan of the Year by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Jean raised millions of dollars over the years for many worthy causes such as the American Heart Association, Make-a-Wish, the Cerebral Palsy Association, the American Lung Association, the Special Olympics and the arts community that she so dearly loved. She was one of the kindest people Sacramento ever knew, but at the same time was driven in her pursuit whether for donations to charity or a client's success. While she had a personality that won business clients over, she also never lost her whimsical side. She was famous for her zany rooftop performances as a witch on Halloween—she rained candy on kids from above—Jean Runyon was affectionately called the "Good Witch of River City".

Her first husband, Mercer Runyon, died in 1970. That same year, her father passed away and she also underwent major surgery for breast cancer. She persevered through her tragedies with the can-do spirit that we all loved. In 1980 she married Philip Tow, a prominent air-pollution control engineer who unfortunately died in 1986. Jean later married again to Eugene Graham, who passed away in 1991. Her last husband, Jack Murphy, a retired insurance executive passed away in 2003. For all the challenges that Jean was presented with, it was clear that personal tragedies could not keep her down. She moved forward, never wavered and persevered with a positive outlook on life.

The successful Sacramento PR firm that Jean began in 1960 was joined by Estelle Saltzman and Jane Einhorn and was called Runyon, Saltzman and Einhorn. Their presence in Sacramento was enormous. Some of their major clients included The Sacramento Bee, California Department of Health Services, California Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair, Sacramento Cable and the Sacramento Kings. One of Jean's favorite PR campaigns was for the Sacramento County Measles inoculation campaign when the vaccine first became available. She felt some of her best work was for campaigns on teen pregnancy, AIDS, anti-smoking and prenatal care.

Jean is survived by her two children, son Stephen Runyon of Courtland and daughter Elizabeth Mulligan of Hood, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. We will all miss Jean Runyon terribly and in so many ways, but we do have countless memories of her to cherish.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLOWER MOUND AND THE FLOWER MOUND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the partnership between the City of Flower Mound and the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce, and to honor the businesses that reside there.

I am proud and grateful to be given the opportunity to represent the strong communities and businesses of north Texas. This pride, however, comes from the energy, creativity and commitment by the individuals within these neighborhoods and institutions that contribute to the growth and opportunity we are blessed to receive in calling this area home.

It's because of cities like Flower Mound and businesses like the ones present tonight that north Texas is able to claim the rare title of being one of the few areas that has retained its economic health in this rough economic climate. The forward-thinking partnership between the city of Flower Mound and the Chamber of Commerce has produced an ideal environment for business prosperity that has remained strong, that sustains the community. That is certainly something to be proud of.

Flower Mound has created, in essence, a haven for new businesses and an environment where small and large businesses alike can take root, grow, and thrive. You are a bright spot in north Texas, and a true example of excellence for the rest of the nation.

I am with great pride that I stand here tonight to join in celebrating the prosperity of Flower Mound. I wish you—the local leadership, the businesses, and the residents—all the best, and let me say that it is my very distinct honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### HONORING ELLIE RILLA

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellie Rilla, a woman who has helped lead the way to a new model of sustainable agriculture in Marin County.

Ellie is now taking a much needed sabbatical after 21 years as a University of California Extension Farm Advisor. In those 2 decades, Ellie was one of a handful that brought together the old-time farmers of the region with a new generation and created a unique fabric that has held the farm community together during difficult times for agriculture, and has in fact, helped many not just survive, but grow.

I am proud to say that the quality agricultural products of Marin County are today unmatched for nutritional value, taste, and sustainable production—and much of this is due to the passionate commitment, hard-headed economic realism and collaborative spirit of Ellie Rilla.

Ellie grew up in Mill Valley where it was a short jaunt to the forests and rangelands of

West Marin. She began her career as an environmental educator at Circuit Riders, a Sonoma County non-profit that was a leader in environmental restoration, and whose ranks have produced several of the North Bay's most prominent restoration specialists. Ellie still lives in Sonoma County in Sebastopol, a city well-known for its progressive politics and its fine food and wine.

In 1988 she became the UC Cooperative Extension Director in Marin and was immediately welcomed by two of West Marin's farm elders, Boyd Stewart and George Grossi. Coming in the midst of the organic revolution and the creation of California cuisine, Ellie saw the promise of local farmers on the edge of the metropolitan Bay Area producing high quality agricultural products. She became, according to Albert Strauss, the owner of Strauss Creamery, ". . . an awesome advocate of sustainable agriculture and organic and local dairy farms." While big and bland agribusiness and real estate development continued to gobble up small farms elsewhere, Ellie saw that survival lay in producing quality products, and developing in consumer's minds a pride in local, sustainable agriculture.

As organic agriculture entered the mainstream, first with California certification, then with USDA certification, Ellie advised farmers on how to meet the new standards, write business plans and market their products. She also helped farmers and ranchers tackle tough new water quality, through the development of best practices and conservation projects, which continue to evolve today.

It was apparent to Ellie that West Marin's small farms and ranches needed to diversify to survive. While dairies were preeminent, though faltering, 2 decades ago, West Marin agriculture now produces an array of products including olives and olive oil, strawberries, row crops, grapes, free range poultry and grass fed beef. Besides high quality milk, local dairies also produce a variety of cheeses, and even organic ice cream.

Ellie realized that the bucolic beauty of West Marin and farmer's adjacency to the Point Reyes National Seashore were important assets. She became an advocate for "agritourism," an industry in which farms and ranches are opened to visiting guests. "These stays give their guests a flavor of what it is like to live on a farm, to see how food is produced and gain an appreciation for natural ecosystem," wrote Rilla. "At the same time it provides farmers and ranchers with additional operating income to save their farms from development." A tireless promoter of agritourism, Rilla both wrote a book about it and helped develop a UC Cooperative Extension Agritourism Project and website.

On June 30 she will begin a very busy sabbatical with three writing projects. She will be writing an analysis of a state-wide survey into agriculture diversification and agritourism, completing a second edition of her book, Agriculture and Nature Tourism, and updating her decade-old case study of three woman-led farm families. Ellie is then expected to return to the University of California Cooperative Extension program in a year to develop state-wide resources for marketing and leadership development.

It's been my pleasure to work with Ellie and to observe the seeds that she has planted in West Marin to sprout, grow and spread, ensuring a bounty for future generations. Thank

you, Ellie for all you have done and all that is still to be accomplished.

#### AMERICAN SAMOA TSUNAMI

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, one month ago, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa was struck by the world's most powerful earthquake of 2009, which set off a tsunami that left untold damage and loss. Once more, I want to thank the Obama Administration, the U.S. Congress, and our friends in the House and Senate, including the Hawaii Delegation and the Territorial Delegates who have stood by us every step of the way.

I especially thank Senator DANIEL K. INOUE, HI, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, HI, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI, Congresswoman MAZIE HIRONO, HI, Congresswoman MADELINE BORDALLO, GU, Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, MP, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VI, and Congressman PEDRO PIERLUISI, PR for their unwavering support.

I also thank the many foreign nations and non-government organizations who have been so generous in helping us rebuild.

I also want to recognize Cathy Barnhardt of the Combined Airline Ticket Office, CATO, and those at the United Airlines government desk including Debbie Smith and Darlene Sacha, and also Debbie Trance-Mordecai of United Global Services at the JFK airport in New York for the outstanding service they provide at all times.

Above all, I pay tribute to the people of American Samoa for the strength, courage and faith they have shown in the face of adversity. My heart also continues to go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones, and I ask for your continued support and prayers on their behalf.

Again, I express my sincere gratitude for everyone, named and unnamed, for lending us a hand when we need it most. I appreciate your kindness and assure you that the people of American Samoa are grateful for your service.

HONORING DANIEL L. WALTER,  
M.D.

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Daniel L. Walter as he retires after 45 years as a Family Practice physician in Davison Michigan. Dr. Walter will be honored at a celebration on November 4.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1959, Dr. Walter completed an internship in Family Practice at Madigan Army Medical School and Madigan General Hospital. He was then commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army and served from 1960 to 1963 as a Battle Group Surgeon attached to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort

Bragg. During this time he was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge and a U.S. Navy Commendation.

Dr. Walter established a Family Practice in Davison in 1963 once his military service was concluded. Over the years Dr. Walter has participated in numerous community and medical associations. Acknowledged and appreciated by his peers, he served in leadership positions with several organizations. Dr. Walter also committed extensive time to educating the area coaches and high school staffs about recognizing and treating sports injuries. He was the first Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice in the Flint area. Dr. Walter and his wife, Peggy, have six children.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Dr. Daniel L. Walter on an excellent medical career. I wish him the best for many, many years ahead.

#### RED RIBBON WEEK

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I support Red Ribbon Week and our unified efforts against illegal drug use.

Red Ribbon Week represents the largest united effort of the American people to promote drug prevention. We must all continue to support this effort.

This dreadful problem plagues communities throughout our Nation and especially my home district in South Florida. Miami is one of the leading areas in cocaine related deaths. And an estimated 20,000 people a year die from illegal drug use throughout the United States each year.

Thankfully, over 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon week by pledging to lead a drug free life. With our encouragement we can have many more youths take this pledge.

As a former educator I know that Red Ribbon Week offers the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and help educate students at a young age on the dangers of drug use. The terrifying fact is that over 60 percent of teens reported that drugs were sold, used, or present at their schools. We must teach students about the dangers of drugs and discourage them of ever becoming involved with drugs in the first place. Only by actively engaging our children can we impress on them the importance of being drug-free.

It has been proven that when teenagers' parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drug use, they are 42 percent less likely to use drugs. Families, adults, and children joining together for this cause have a profound impact on not only those participating, but also the communities as a whole.

We must continue to strive to increase awareness and participation in Red Ribbon Week to help stop this devastating problem of drug abuse and drug-related violence.

In this effort we must also remember those who seek to safeguard our children in the fight against drugs. Just this Monday, three Drug Enforcement Administration agents died tragically while conducting overseas operations. The agents were returning from a counter-nar-

cotics operation when the military helicopter they were riding in crashed. Seven U.S. military servicemembers were also killed in the crash.

Of these heroes, Special Agent Chad Michael was from my Congressional district and I would like to take this moment to honor his memory and sacrifice. Before being reassigned in August to a DEA operation in Afghanistan, Special Agent Michael was a member of South Florida's DEA team for six years. The DEA agents were assigned to the agency's operation against Afghanistan's opium trade, which frequently funds insurgent activity. Efforts in Afghanistan began in 2005 and in the past year have been reinforced to fully attack international drug trade and the activities it funds. Since illegal drugs have a large dependence on international sources, it is critical that we support those who help to fight this part of the drug war.

My prayers go out to Special Agent Michael's family, and to the families of all the heroes who risk their lives each day to make our country and this world safer and drug-free.

As a mother and grandmother, and for the sake of all our children, I urge all Americans to take the Red Ribbon Week pledge this and every October.

CONGRATULATING JOYCE ANN BROWN ON CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam speaker, I rise to express my best wishes to celebrate the life and achievements of Joyce Ann Brown. I had the pleasure of having Ms. Brown serve on a reentry panel during the 39th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Ms. Brown was unjustly convicted of a crime she did not commit and served nine years, five months and 24 days in prison before this injustice was realized and the guilty verdict was reversed. Upon release, Joyce started the not for profit organization, Mothers (Fathers) for the Advancement of Social Systems Inc. (MASS Inc.) in Dallas, TX. This organization focuses on assisting released ex-offenders reintegrating into society.

The reentry of ex-offenders is an issue of very high priority and importance to me and I am personally invested in the success of organizations like MASS, Inc. With the passage of the Second Chance Act in 2008, organizations such as MASS will benefit from additional federal grant funding to strengthen programs that aid ex-offenders in becoming productive contributing members of society.

Throughout my career, I have fought for the underserved and underrepresented and on my journey have come to admire Joyce Ann Brown for all her work and achievements in the area of social justice. Ms. Brown spent three years writing letters to appeal the atrocious injustice she faced and continued to fight upon release. Therefore, I am delighted to be included in commending Joyce Ann Brown and would like to thank her for her assistance with our work here on the hill. The organization she has created has helped many

ex-offenders as well as their families, and has provided the support needed for a healthy society.

Providing support to ex-offenders is paramount to becoming productive citizens, taxpayers, mothers and fathers. Research has shown that successful employment interventions among ex-offenders benefits not only the ex-offender, but also his or her family, social networks, communities and society at large. The benefits reaped by society through the MASS organization and the work of Joyce Ann Brown are vital to the preservation of a healthy society and should rightfully be congratulated and recognized.

#### OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on October 28, 2009, terrorists killed nearly 100 people—including dozens of women and children—when they attacked a women's market in Peshawar, Pakistan, with a car bomb. These type of heinous acts are a sad reminder of the gruesome tactics used by those who want to undermine stability in Pakistan and the region as well as threaten American families and our allies. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Pakistan—an ally of the United States in the global war on terrorism.

In the wake of these most recent attacks, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—who was on the ground in Pakistan at the time—correctly stated that those terrorists who perpetrate these types of murderous acts are “on the losing side of history.” This is why we must continue to fight to defeat the terrorists overseas to protect American families here at home. We must stand with the people of Pakistan and the people of Afghanistan to protect and defend democracy and freedom.

I know firsthand of the sacrifices of the Pakistani people. I was honored to have breakfast with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at her home in Islamabad four weeks and a day before she was murdered. The brave people of Pakistan responded to this brutal attack with resolve to continue building a civil society.

#### PREVENTING EXTORTION

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the following essay was presented to me at a health care townhall. I believe this historical analogy is very sound.

PREVENTING EXTORTION

(By Jack Churchill)

The debate about a public health insurance option mirrors the debate about public power in the 1920's and 30's. The arguments then were very similar to the arguments we hear today.

The principal issue then was whether the federal government should enter the public

power business by investing taxpayers' money to build the Tennessee Valley Authority and to harness the Columbia and other rivers for electrical energy or the sites should be transferred to the private sector. A second issue was who should build transmission lines and set wholesale prices when the Federal government built dams.

The answer to the second question was first enunciated on the Senate floor in the fight over the Wilson Dam in 1920 by Senator John Sharp Williams of Tennessee. He said “The government should have somewhere a producer of these things that should furnish a productive element to stop and check private profiteering.” Thus was born the yardstick federal policy which later found its way into TVA legislation through the efforts of Nebraska's Senator George Norris. In a 1932 campaign speech in Portland, Oregon, Franklin Roosevelt referred to his TVA and other regional proposals as “yardsticks to prevent extortion against the public.”

Roosevelt's statement enunciated America's public power agenda, which through the years has saved the federal government and electrical consumers hundreds of billions of today's dollars. This public investment provided the electrical energy to build the bombers and the atomic bomb and was a critical factor in winning World War II.

At the time of the Yardstick Public Power legislation of the 1930's, most of the farms and homes in rural America were without electrical power. Only in the cities could private power companies make a profit selling electrical energy. With the launching of the New Deal yardstick pricing, together with publicly owned electrical cooperatives and public utility districts, rural America was electrified and private utilities ended up serving a large majority of rural consumers.

Because we adopted yardstick pricing back in the 30's, today America possesses a healthy and balanced mix of private, public, and cooperative electrical systems.

The public power analogy might be a useful device in combating the brutal campaign against a federal public health insurance option. History is repeating itself. We see the same epithets of socialism, unfair competition, and government interference with private enterprise.

Both America's constitutional system of government and our free enterprise economic system are built upon the fundamental notion of balancing power between institutions. It is only when there is an imbalance of power within one of the two systems or the share of power between them that we fail. Recent disasters created by imbalance, including Enron and California energy manipulation and the collapse of the American banking system, wiping out our citizens' retirement accounts, are painful examples.

Most importantly and perhaps most painful for great numbers of our citizens today, America trails all developed countries by many years in fashioning an effective national health services delivery system.

There is no industry that has a more shared and complex mix of nonprofit, government, and private for-profit delivery systems. Yet we have a system that is neither cost-effective nor meets the needs of our citizens whether insured or not. It is a system that is out of balance. It desperately needs an effective yardstick.

The imbalance in our system began in 1975 when the Supreme Court gave the green light to commercialization of medicine by removing medicine from protection of the antitrust laws. The imbalance was greatly exacerbated in 1980 when the American Medical Association changed its ethical guidelines to declare that medicine was no longer a professional service but both a business

and a profession. The other factor of great influence that has led to imbalance is the dominance of investor-owned private insurance companies born from the establishment of employer-based health insurance systems.

Thus began the corporatizing and domination of Wall Street in organizing and pricing for-profit medical services. Rather than a system organized to deliver cost-effective medical services to patients, today we have a system designed for profit.

Despite the roles of federal Medicare, state Medicaid, members of Congress health care programs, federal delivery systems such as the Veterans Administration, and nonprofit group health cooperative associations, the balance of power in our national health care delivery system is now largely in the hands of Wall Street-driven for-profit enterprises. Every medical procedure from putting on surgical gloves to sending bills to the insurance company has become a profit center. And the pricing for all the services are set largely in an oligarchical framework of administered pricing. There is absolutely no competitive pricing. Have you or anyone you know ever negotiated the price of medical service?

So history repeats itself. The Democratic party is charged with formulating another national yardstick policy that will have enormous consequences for the health and welfare of our citizens in generations to come. Like Franklin Roosevelt, President Obama is simply leading the nation to create sufficient power in the public sector to balance against the private sector and the Wall Street pricing effect. Or in President Roosevelt's words, “a yardstick to prevent extortion against the public.” And as President Obama stated the issue “to keep insurance companies honest.”

The failure of Congress to build in an effective market yardstick for pricing medical services would cost future generations trillions and fail to deliver cost-effective medical care to all our citizens. No amount of regulation will suffice. Only the market mechanism will provide effective cost reduction to pay for universal coverage.

#### OCTOBER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Besides skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common cancer occurring among American women. In 2009, it is estimated that around 179,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States. And, an estimated 1 million new breast cancer cases will be identified in the coming year. For approximately 500,000 patients this year, this disease will be fatal. The time to address this problem is now.

I encourage all women to get a mammogram because early detection is the key to beating this disease. A time commitment of only one hour can save your life.

I am a proud sponsor of H.R. 1691, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2009. This bill would prohibit a health care provider from limiting hospital stays for mastectomy or breast-conserving surgery to less than 48 hours. However, this measure protects and defers to the physician-patient relationship by not mandating a certain hospital stay if both

the patient and her doctor agree that such stay is unnecessary. Many breast cancer patients undergo some type of surgical treatment, which may involve lumpectomy or mastectomy. Breast cancer surgery is not easy, physically or emotionally. When women find themselves forced by their insurance companies to leave the hospital before they are ready—sometimes just hours after surgery—it can lead to serious complications.

I am also a sponsor of H.R. 1740, the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act (the EARLY Act), which would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a national educational campaign to increase awareness of the threats posed by breast cancer in young women of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Regarding research funding, I sponsored legislation that raises money for breast cancer research by giving Americans the option of purchasing a special postage stamp for 14 cents above the normal price. This small amount of money adds up and makes a difference. Since 1997, the program has raised more than \$53 million for breast cancer research.

Last year, I met two breast cancer survivors from the Kansas City area who were visiting Washington, D.C. for a reception honoring their advocacy efforts. Kim Carlos and Jennifer Johnson coauthored *Nordie's at Noon*, a book detailing their personal stories and those of others who have battled breast cancer. Their powerful message highlights the importance of spreading breast cancer education and early detection awareness to help save lives.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center houses the Breast Cancer Survivorship Center, and focuses a comprehensive attack on the disease—from education and early detection to treatment, post-operative care, and emotion support. Battling breast cancer and other forms of cancer is a lifetime fight and just because a patient's treatment concludes does not mean that the care is finished. The Center's mission is very straightforward—eliminate the burden of cancer through world-class research, drug development and delivery, prevention and survivorship, and patient care. When it comes to fighting cancer, the University of Kansas says “Game On!”

ALLOWING FUNDING FOR THE  
INTEROPERABLE EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1694, the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program Extension Act of 2009.

This grant program, due to expire at the end of this year, is a vital component of a nationwide fully interoperable communications network for our first responders. It provides grants to States so they may purchase expensive, yet essential, interoperable communications equipment.

This simple, straightforward extension would assist States in establishing their portion of a

nationwide interoperable network. We cannot afford to let this program expire.

There are two primary reasons to support this bill.

First, interoperability is essential for the safety of Americans. We all know the devastating consequences that occur when our first responders and public safety entities cannot communicate in the face of incredible disaster. Tragedies such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina instantly come to mind.

Interoperability was a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and one of the foremost reasons Congress passed legislation to “free-up” spectrum by transitioning to digital television.

First responders need to be able to communicate effortlessly—lives depend on it.

Second, we want to ensure the communications networks established by States are thorough, effective, and efficient.

The Department of Homeland Security has set deadlines for all States to develop State-wide Communications Interoperability Plans and Congress established the grant program to help States purchase the equipment to implement these plans.

Unfortunately, the deadline for the program has not afforded States sufficient time to comply with the program requirements.

By extending the deadline for applications for this grant program, we are enabling public safety entities to do the right thing—to carefully and thoroughly design their interoperable plans before they spend millions of taxpayer dollars on equipment.

Of course, the sooner interoperable communications networks come online, the better. But we do not want to unwisely rush their implementation or effectively punish those entities that do their due diligence in the planning stages. We must extend this vital grant program.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleague Rep. HARMAN who had the foresight to introduce this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1694, the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program Extension Act of 2009.

NATIONAL DISABILITY  
EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

As President Obama stated in his proclamation naming October as the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, fair access to employment is a fundamental right of every American, including the 54 million people in this country living with disabilities.

Through the Ability One Program, a federal initiative, that enables people who are blind or have other significant disabilities to work and provide products and services to federal and commercial customers, thousands of working Americans are contributing to West Virginia and national economies.

The more people know about the capabilities of people with disabilities to work and lead independent lives, the more we can shatter

stereotypes and misperceptions. We need to celebrate empowering one another by highlighting the ingenuity and perseverance of people with disabilities. As a Nation, we should take this month as an opportunity to showcase the contributions of those with disabilities who have found success in the workplace.

However, there is more that needs to be done to spread the awareness that hiring people with disabilities is good for businesses in West Virginia. For example, seven out of ten working age Americans who are blind are not employed.

The month of October honors these men and women who live with disabilities and are working or want to work within their communities. I would like to take this time to shine a spotlight and raise awareness of programs in West Virginia and around the Nation that work with individuals with disabilities.

Both the American Foundation for the Blind, AFB, and the National Federation for the Blind, NFB, have chapters in Huntington and around the state where they work with individuals with disabilities to improve their lives through advocacy, education and career programs. These organizations work to educate the public on the ability of those with disabilities to succeed and thrive within employment settings. They promote independent and healthy living for people with vision loss by providing them and their families with relevant and timely resources.

Another organization working in West Virginia to educate employers about employing workers with disabilities is Goodwill Industries. They provide education, training and career services for people with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. They work to train and employ contract workers to fill outsourced needs for document management, assembly, mailing, custodial work, grounds keeping and more. In 2008, local Goodwill organizations collectively provided employment and training services to more than 1.525 million individuals.

Federal initiatives such as AbilityOne Program, also help people who are blind or have other severe disabilities find employment by working for nonprofit agencies, NPsAs, that sell product or services to the U.S. government. They are the largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States with 12 participating non-profit agencies in West Virginia.

I know employers can make a difference. Two years ago, my chief of staff became disabled after a fall in his home injured his spinal cord. He's now back at work and continues on the road to recovery with the help of accommodations I'm pleased to say the House of Representatives made for him at my request. From the Speaker and her staff, to both the Sergeant-At-Arms and the CAO's staff and to the Capitol Police and the House Staff Fitness Center—all of these offices have responded enthusiastically. From helping getting his transportation past security checkpoints to getting his wheelchair into the office, from designing his workstation to accommodating his workout routine, the House answered my requests affirmatively. This month he was recognized by his state vocational rehabilitation program for his accomplishment of returning to work.

All of us face battles—many of us face more than our fair share. This month serves as a reminder of that truth. It is a truth we as a society must respect and must work to make right.

We have some strong allies in that battle as evidenced above. There is more than abundant evidence here that despite all odds against it, the human spirit is a difficult, if not impossible, flame to snuff out. Hope is but a small thing on show this day when compared to the many triumphs and remarkable victories we celebrate. The courage shown every day by those with disabilities is contagious and their successes empower all of us to be better individuals, better community members, and better Americans.

Please join with me in celebrating all of the organizations who work to raise awareness about the dedicated and hard-working Americans who are blind or have other significant disabilities who provide quality products and services at fair market prices to the Federal government every day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY  
BOARD INTERIM SAFETY REC-  
COMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the National Transportation Safety Board Interim Safety Recommendations Act of 2009, joined by regional Members, including House Majority Leader STENY HOYER, D-MD, FRANK WOLF, R-VA, JIM MORAN, D-VA, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, D-MD, DONNA EDWARDS, D-MD, and GERALD CONNOLLY, D-VA, as original co-sponsors. Our bill will clarify that the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, may, and should, offer interim safety recommendations to state and local transportation authorities.

On June 22, 2009, two Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, WMATA, trains collided near the Fort Totten station here in the Nation's capital. This collision was devastating for this region and for the Nation's transit systems, as nine regional residents died, seven from the Nation's capital. On Metro everyday, in the national capital region, Members of Congress and their staff and millions of other Federal employees of every rank form the majority of Metro's week day riders. Millions of tourists, people who work in every sector and school children are regular riders. The collision has had nation-wide consequences. On September 22, even before its Metro study was complete, the NTSB issued nine nation-wide safety recommendations to address concerns about the safety of train control systems that use audio frequency track circuits, like those that may have contributed to the June 22 train collision here. We believe that, in turn, low-cost, recommendations were in order that might save lives.

The NTSB has been particularly vigilant in quickly reporting defects and operational problems, to encourage remediation even before its final reports. Long before the June 22 collision, in 1996, NTSB had recommended to WMATA that it replace or retrofit its older 1970's 1000 series train cars after a train overran a station platform, striking a standing, unoccupied train, and killing the driver of the striking train. The NTSB renewed this recommendation to replace or refurbish the older cars following the roll back accident of a train

car in the Woodley Park Metro station in 2004, as it should have. The NTSB is not prohibited by statute from making interim recommendations for corrective actions, but low cost recommendations of the kind made thereafter were not made after any of the Metro accidents. This bill clarifies that the NTSB does have such authority.

While the reason for the June 22 crash has not yet been determined, it was evident that the striking car, which was an older 1000 series train car, was significantly more damaged than the struck car, which was a newer 6000 series car. In fact, all of the fatalities were from the 1000 series car. Following the collision, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 suggested that WMATA put the 1000 series cars between the newer, more crash-worthy 6000 series cars.

Unfortunately, without the regulatory authority established by this bill we have introduced, there have been no tests of crash worthiness either of the newer 6000 series cars or of the older 1000 series. However, the evidence from the crash suggests that 40 year old cars may be more dangerous as lead and rear cars. The NTSB did not disagree with this interim step at a Congressional hearing in July, but it never recommended this, or any other action, except action that is so costly that it will not occur.

It is a well known and frustrating fact that, for years, Metro has tried to convince Congress and the local jurisdictions to fund replacements for the old 1000 series cars and only this year, after the tragic collision, has Congress appropriated the first \$150 million of the \$1.5 billion authorized first time in 2007. The 1000 series cars were only 300 of Metro's 1,100-car fleet, but replacing those cars will cost \$600 million and take at least five years of combined federal and local area payments. Moreover, the cost of gas at the pump has so driven up Metro ridership, that it cannot simply cut its fleet by 300 cars. Congress and members of our regional delegation had been working long before the collision to get from Congress the \$1.5 billion that has now been authorized for WMATA's urgent capital and preventive maintenance needs, including new cars. While we have finally been successful in getting the first \$150 million, it will take years to fund these replacements, not to mention other problems such as the circuit signals that NTSB has already found may be implicated. Recommendations short of multimillion dollar upgrades and replacements can save lives. This bill requires the NTSB to specifically consider recommending interim recommendations where appropriate, especially when a transit agency has not secured funds to meet the costly permanent recommendations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House pass this bill.

HONORING BENJAMIN P. LATHROP  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE  
MAYOR OF NORWICH, CT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Benjamin P. Lathrop who is retiring after years of service to the City

of Norwich, Connecticut. I rise to recognize him on his retirement after 4 years of service as Mayor, and over a decade of service to the community as a whole.

Ben has dedicated his life to public service, and is a veteran of the Air Force who served our nation during the Vietnam War. He has served as Mayor of Norwich since 2005 and previously on the Norwich City Council from 1997, the final two terms as President Pro-Tem. A perpetually enthusiastic booster for the city, Ben's good cheer, kindness, and dedication have helped him unite the people of Norwich and set the stage for further progress in the years to come.

Ben founded both the Mayor's Cup Challenge and the Norwich Ambassador Program. He has volunteered in community groups such as the American Cancer Society and the March of Dimes, and as a mentor at the Norwich Public Schools and the Greeneville School. Ben has served on many of Norwich's boards and commissions, notably as a member of both the Greater Norwich Area and Eastern Connecticut Chambers of Commerce.

We will honor his service on November 19 with a dinner, the proceeds of which will benefit Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut and Thames Valley Council for Community Action Inc.

Ben's dedication as a citizen of Norwich, and his passion as the city's Mayor will be remembered for years to come. He truly believes in the importance of community, and wears his love for his city on his sleeve. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in thanking Mayor Lathrop for his service and wishing him the best in his new endeavors.

SIGNING OF THE TURKEY/ARME-  
NIA PROTOCOLS ON OCTOBER 10,  
2009

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise with optimism about the latest progress towards normalization of relations between the Republics of Turkey and Armenia.

On October 10, Foreign Ministers Ahmet Davutoglu of Turkey and Edward Nalbandian of Armenia signed a notable agreement, taking both countries a step closer to establishing full diplomatic relations, opening borders and greatly enhancing economic, political and cultural cooperation.

These historic protocols are a critical measure that will bring about regional stability. There have been confidential talks for approximately a decade between the two nations, and this agreement is a testament to the willingness of Armenia and Turkey to look forward towards the common goal of open borders and normalization of relations. As a Member of NATO, and a frontline country bordering Iraq, Turkey is a critical ally of the United States. As we re-deploy our forces in Iraq, Turkey plays a key role. Turkey has been a major support of the new Iraqi government and plays a positive role of investment in Iraq and developing a civil society in Iraq. Closer relations between Turkey and Armenia will hopefully move Armenia into a more westward

direction as this agreement will encourage Armenia to build trade and economic ties with its largest western neighbor.

The interest of the international community was evident with the presence of the representatives from France, Russia, Switzerland, the European Union and the United States in Zurich at the signing ceremony. I am particularly proud of Secretary Clinton's tireless efforts to encourage both parties to reach agreement on the accords. The signing of the protocols has been a priority for President Obama, and Secretary Clinton's work on October 10th underscores the value of stability in the Caucasus region for the United States and the entire international community.

The protocols must still be brought back to the respective parliaments and ratified, but we should acknowledge this significant progress and continue to encourage both Armenia and Turkey to work together to develop a long lasting diplomatic relationship and stability in the region.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FREDERICK K. BIEBEL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Frederick K. Biebel of Stratford, Connecticut who passed away this week at the age of 83. Fred was a remarkable member of the community and a local political legend. His passing marks the end of an era in the Stratford community and in Connecticut's Republican Party.

Fred began his career in the 1950s as a member of Stratford's Town Council as well as the Chairman of the Stratford Republican Town Committee. During his tenure, he organized countless campaigns and served as a role model and mentor for other candidates. Fred went on to serve as Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee in Connecticut and during President Reagan's Administration he presided as Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He also represented Connecticut as a delegate in fourteen national GOP conventions—the last just this past year. Fred served in every capacity—from volunteer to candidate to national party co-chair. He was committed to his ideals, but understood the value of debate. Through his activism he earned a distinguished reputation and was respected by colleagues of every political persuasion.

As involved in politics as he was, Fred was just as committed to his family and community. He and his wife of 58 years, Violet, raised three children and he was a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Fred was also a dedicated member of the Lordship Community Church where he served as deacon. In fact, he helped to literally build the Church itself, dismantling, transporting, and reassembling an unused Colonial white church from Vermont in the late 1940s. Fred was proud of the life he built—a fact that was reflected in his recently published autobiography, "Path of a Patriot: The Political Journey of Mr. B."

Though we may have come from different political viewpoints, Fred and I shared a com-

mon cause—public service. Whether through his political career or his work in the community, Fred dedicated a lifetime to service. He understood better than most that a community is only as strong as those members who dedicate themselves to its improvement. He knew that meaningful change came from active involvement—a lesson that he passed on to several generations. I consider myself fortunate to have known him.

Today, as family and friends reflect on the life of Frederick K. Biebel, I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Violet, his children, Karen, Kyle, and Kevin, as well as his nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Fred was an extraordinary man who touched the lives of many. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

BOEING BRINGS JOBS TO SOUTH  
CAROLINA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday, Boeing announced that they had chosen their North Charleston, South Carolina, facility as the site for a second 787 Dreamliner final assembly line. This is tremendous news not just for the people of Charleston but for all the families of South Carolina. As we have seen with the success of Michelin across the state, including Lexington, recruited from France by Governor Jim Edwards and BMW at Greer secured from Germany by the late Governor Carroll Campbell bringing new jobs, Boeing's decision will have a broader impact on our state's economy. As noted in today's edition of The State, "S.C. officials expect a network of companies will spring up across the state to support Boeing's operations, just as businesses sprang up around BMW's Upstate plant, opened in the 1990s."

This decision by Boeing is a testament to the strong workforce in South Carolina. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of so many members of our communities who continue to fight to bring more jobs to South Carolina. In particular, South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor has shown excellent leadership. I've been grateful to work with Secretary Taylor and other leaders as we keep our commitment to those we serve to promote South Carolina as a leader for industry and innovation in the positive environment of a Right to Work State.

HONORING BROOKSIDE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Brookside Elementary School and congratulate them for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

The teachers and staff at Brookside School aim to provide a rigorous yet nurturing environment where on-going academic, social and emotional support is provided so all students can realize their potential. Brookside School has the advantage of small class sizes which creates an atmosphere where each child is recognized for his or her individual gifts and talents.

Character education is woven throughout the curriculum at Brookside Elementary School. Each month, the school hosts "BBOTB", Brookside Brings out the Best, Assembly, where students are recognized for excellent citizenship, character, effort, respect, neatness and organization. As a member of the Committee for Education and Labor, I have the privilege of learning about school both locally and nationally. The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children. Our community, and our nation, is enhanced by the contributions of high achieving students like those at Brookside Elementary School. Additionally, I would like to recognize the work of the teachers and administrators who dedicate their lives to their students. The staff is the back-bone of the student's success and I thank them for all that they do on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to the Brookside Elementary School.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 783, which recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrates the vast contributions of Hispanic-Americans to the strength and culture of the United States.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson introduced Hispanic Heritage Week, which was later expanded to Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. This year, Americans commemorated the history of Hispanic-Americans and their numerous contributions to our country from September 15, 2009, to October 15, 2009.

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2008, was 46.9 million. Hispanic-Americans constitute 15 percent of the Nation's total population, comprise 62.2 percent of my district in Houston, Texas, and are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States. Their contributions to our society are evident in many areas including the arts, architecture, literature, military, and our government.

In congratulate all Hispanic-Americans on their rich history and culture, and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month as an important time to commemorate the great achievements and contributions of Hispanic-Americans to the United States.

As a cosponsor of this important resolution, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

HONORING SECRETARY JOHN  
MCHUGH

SPEECH OF

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of former Congressman and the 21st Secretary of the Army John McHugh.

In more than 8 terms in Congress, Secretary McHugh has served as a steadfast and reliable advocate for our men and women in uniform. His drive and determination for our soldiers have played a major role in the way we repay our troops.

Throughout his career, Secretary McHugh has always sought new ways to serve his country, and America is better for it. Over the last eight years, he has made fourteen official visits to Iraq, Afghanistan, and multiple other deployed locations to visit United States forces.

In his own words, Secretary McHugh has inspired many. Earlier this year, he summed up perfectly what it means to be an American—in uniform or civilian—when he asked, “What else can I do to serve?”

The United States Army has been placed in the capable hands of Secretary John McHugh, and I wish him the best of luck in his new position.

CONGRATULATING JOHN “HUT”  
HUTSON, WILLIAM C. JENKINS,  
DAVID F. LUCIER, PETER MAR-  
TINEZ, PAT CHORPENNING AND  
CARL G. SCHNEIDER—INDUCTEES  
TO THE ARIZONA VETERANS  
HALL OF FAME

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning and Carl G. Schneider, the Class of 2009 inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. These citizens are recognized for their exemplary service for our country.

For both bravely serving our country and inspiring those outside their military service, 19 Arizona residents were selected to be part of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. In a state boasting more than 600,000 veterans, I am truly honored to represent five of this year’s recipients.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society annually rewards and honors veterans for their continued service to the community. Each recipient of the prestigious award is personally selected by the Office of Governor Jan Brewer in partnership with the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services.

These veterans represent the courage and patriotism that is so revered by many Americans. It is people like this that I am continuously thinking of and am proud to serve. As members of the Hall of Fame Society, I am sure these veterans will carry on inspiring and serving our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning and Carl G. Schneider’s exceptional service.

H.R. 3763, TO AMEND THE FAIR  
AND ACCURATE CREDIT REPORT-  
ING ACT

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I come before you today in unison with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of H.R. 3763, to amend the Fair and Accurate Credit Reporting Act to provide an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for certain businesses. I’m proud that the lawmakers and the FTC are actively combating the serious problem of identity theft. The Red Flag Guidelines outlined in the Fair and Accurate Credit Reporting Act directs businesses to establish, by August 1, 2009, a plan for protecting their customers from identity theft. We must remember, however, that regulations like the Red Flags Rule have serious consequences for our nation’s small businesses. Small businesses are leaders in their communities and work hard to establish personal relationships with their customers. We cannot simply adopt a one-size-fits-all system that applies the same regulatory standards to a large corporation as it does to a small community health care provider or a small law firm.

I commend my colleague from New Jersey for recognizing the undue burden these regulations will have on small businesses and for introducing legislation that provides a more viable solution to identity theft prevention. I am proud to have worked with him in drafting this bill. H.R. 3763 returns to the original intent of the FTC regulations. This bill recognizes that law firms, health care providers, accountants, and other businesses which provide repeated face-to-face service and/or have fewer than 20 employees are not vulnerable to identity theft in the same way as other businesses. These types of businesses were not intended to fall under such FTC regulations and should not be included in Red Flag Guidelines. H.R. 3763 would provide an exemption for such businesses, saving the small business community tremendous undue financial and administrative burden.

WHEN COURAGE COMES TO CREST:  
PFC BRENDAN MARROCCO,  
UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the heroism of a real American hero, one of New York’s and Staten Island’s finest sons. Today, the Armed Forces and their families must come back home from war and rebuild their lives in many instances where nonlies left. As each, and on their own, they all will teach us about faith and courage

and selfless sacrifice. PFC Brendan Marrocco is such a man who was gravely wounded in Iraq. During an EFP explosion, Rocco lost all four of his limbs. While clinging to life, most people may have given up but Rocco refuses! For he has a life to live, and a world to inspire. With the help of his brother Michael, who quit his job to be with him and help him as he moves onward. Rock on Rocco!

WHEN COURAGE COMES TO CREST

All in our darkest days of night!

When, all hope seems so lost . . . our plight

. . .

While, against all odds . . . , somehow we so fight! When, Courage Comes To Crest!

With only its shining light, will we but so see our very best . . . our light!

All in hearts of gold which will so bless, to lead that most valiant fight!

Upon, battlefields of honor yes, all in hearts of courage so burning bright . . .

Throughout all of those darkest days of war, those many nights . . . as we so see their light!

Amidst, all those battle cries . . . of the darkest of death and gore as so comprised . . .

As all of those most magnificent hearts, as so ignite . . .

All in those faces of heroes, as when their courage so comes to life!

Who, but for this our nation bore . . . and would give up, oh so much more . . .

Holding Brothers In Arms, with but tears in their eyes . . .

Until, their fine hearts beat no more . . . who so died!

And all of those loved ones at home, who so worry for them as their hearts so moan!

As When, Courage Comes To Crest . . . as when so comes forth, so much more from these who bless!

As when, a new battle must begin! As from a coma you so awoke so then . . .

All in your loss, how such courage then . . . that even your fine heart, may not except!

As you look down all at the cost, wondering if you would be but better off . . .

Be but better off, dead . . . all in that moment of truth, as what your brilliant heart so said!

Showing us the proof . . . As so when, you must decide . . . Should I live? Or should I die?

When, but the very will to live . . . all in your fine heart, so lies . . . ‘ah Rocco so lives!

While so very, so very . . . so very . . . very . . . very . . . very . . . deep down inside!

When, Courage Comes To Crest . . . as the tears roll down your fine eyes . . .

As you lie there all in your pain, moments away from dying . . . all in your most amazing grace comprised!

As your courage so begins to rise! As Comes To Crest!

As why, one day to Heaven . . . Rocco . . . you’re my fine soul shall so rise!

As you so wipe away, all those swollen tears . . . as from your most brilliant eyes . . .

And you so say to yourself, I choose to live . . . and so Not So To Die!

As your most Heroic of All Hearts, so begins to cry!

From somewhere, so very . . . very . . . very . . . deep down inside . . .

As you so decide, with all your might! To Live On! To Somehow Fight!

To Bring Your Light, and not ask why!

All in what you have so left, so left . . . so very deep down inside!

As on this fine day, your beautiful heart so begins to rise . . .  
 For arms and legs we all need, but we can live without. . . .  
 But, it's only with our hearts . . . that we can do so not so live no doubt!  
 As this Roc, will not so be stopped!  
 For Rocco, you have mountains to so climb . . . but to the very top!  
 Rock On Rocco . . . On How You So Roc!  
 As you have Souls To Heal, and To Inspire . . . as you reach for the top!  
 As your fine heart of a comet, can not so be stopped!  
 For from that Gotham City, comes your most Gotham Heart . . .  
 As you grew up in the shadow of liberty, as Rocco . . . as you have her heart!  
 Setting, all others . . . so very far apart . . .  
 For you will win! And you will rise, but to the top! For there are Angel's put upon this earth . . .  
 All in our Lord's eyes, who so come first . . . so Roc . . .  
 To Reach Us, To Beseech Us . . . To Teach Us . . . all in their fine worth!  
 For all of Staten Island, is so smiling on this very day . . .  
 To have such a fine Son as you, all in what you so gave!  
 So tried and true, and in your most heroic hue! You make us all so very proud!  
 Such men, and women such, as you . . . who in the towers once ran up to the top!  
 Yet, knowing this might be their last hours . . . as still, they would not be stopped!  
 There are Angels up in Heaven now Rocco . . . watching over you!  
 And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray . . . that he could be but just like you the fine one!  
 The kind who's gold lies within his soul . . . as shone, to everyone . . . all in your most heroic hue!  
 For in the game of life, there is but only one way to win that battle! Win, That fight so true!  
 Of good versus evil, no less . . . to win that day, that night . . .  
 When, Courage Comes To Crest!

RECOGNIZING BRANDEN  
 STACKENWAT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, on October 30, 2009, I will be proud to host two of my constituents, Branden Stackenwalt and his father, Dave Stackenwalt, for a visit to the U.S. Capitol.

Branden is proud to be a combat engineer with the U.S. Army, serving with the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, 4th Engineer Battalion. On September 21, 2009, the vehicle Branden was traveling in ran over a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan. One member of the vehicle's four-man crew was killed and the other three, including Branden, were critically injured. In the blast, Branden suffered severe fractures to vertebrae in his back, both legs, elbow and heels.

Thanks to his enduring spirit and courageous determination—as well as the excellent medical care he received from our Nation's Army doctors—Branden is vastly improved today and on the road to recovery. He was first flown to Germany, and then to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he has received care since September 27.

Since the incident, Branden has undergone multiple surgeries to repair his legs. Although he still faces an arduous road to full recovery, he has made significant progress, all the while maintaining a positive attitude. I am quite certain that Branden's personal strength of spirit, along with the loving care of his family, has been instrumental in the progress he has made.

During his recovery, I have had the privilege to get to know both Branden and his family. His parents, Dave and Kim, are wonderful people who love their son very much. Branden also has a younger sister, Savannah, in South Dakota who I know is eager to see him again soon.

Branden is now able to get around well in a wheelchair, and I have learned that he will soon be transferred to the Minneapolis VA facility to continue his recovery. I am pleased that he was able to visit us at the Capitol.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and respect for one of South Dakota's brave young soldiers that I rise today in recognition of Branden Stackenwalt and his service to our country. I am so very proud to represent him, his family, and all South Dakotans who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces. I thank Branden and all those who serve for their courage and fortitude in the face of danger.

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights lawyers who appeared at a hearing today of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE RULE OF LAW IN CHINA BY MR. JIANG TIANYONG

Dear members of U.S. Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

How are you? My name is Jiang Tianyong and I come from mainland China. I am an attorney and most of the cases I take on involve religious belief, and are usually referred to as "sensitive cases." I am also a Christian and as such a person, I need to worship God in gatherings with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am going to discuss three things, and I hope I can give you an idea of the actual status of the rule of law and religious belief in China.

The first one is an event I would like to share: On the afternoon of Mother's Day of May 13, 2007, I was praying and singing hymns of God with my brothers and sisters in Christ gathering. It was in a private large room in Beijing. Suddenly, several dozen people broke into the room. Only about a dozen of them were wearing uniforms and the rest were in plain clothes. One of them forced us to stop our activities and to remain still where we were. We were not allowed to leave the place. The intruders claimed that they were law enforcement officers from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Religious Administration. They said that our gathering was an illegal one and abolished it immediately!

They sealed our donation box and took videos and photos of many of us. They also recorded the identification information of every one of us. After that, they conducted a long interrogation. It was after 1 AM that I left the site. Between that day and July 2009, I had no place where I could meet with my fellow Christians in a gathering. This is my experience in China as a Christian.

The second event occurred on April 16, 2009. Attorney Li Fangping and I became the defense counsels for the living Buddha from Burongna Convent in Tibet that day. The living Buddha is the abbot of Burongna Convent and Ya-tseg Convent in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Ganzi of Sichuan province. He was charged with weapons possession and functionary embezzlement. However, after a detailed investigation, we found the living Buddha was actually charged for some other reasons. After the March 14 Incident in 2008, people in the Tibetan prefecture were organized by the government to engage in a "Campaign of Education in Patriotism." Monks and nuns were forced to study in the convents and were kept there for a long time. What, then, was the content of their education? They were commanded to criticize the Dalai Lama and to call him a jackal and to break away from him. Every one of them was commanded to trample on the portrait of Dalai Lama and spit on the portrait before he or she was allowed to pass the test. Given such a situation, over 200 nuns from Burongna and Ya-tseg Convents could no longer endure this, and they finally broke out of the convents on May 14, 2008 and went to protest in the streets, demanding religious freedom. As the living Buddha was the leader of these two convents, he was arrested. His case was tried on April 21, 2009 and both of the attorneys and the living Buddha denied the charges. There is still no result from the case, but we worry about the fate of the living Buddha.

The third piece of evidence I would like to share is that starting from 2008, I began to defend Falun Gong practitioners in nearly 20 Falun Gong cases. I have found that the crackdown on Falun Gong is indeed a serious human rights disaster. My clients were arrested simply because of the practice. They were tried simply because they gave practice books to others. Some of them were sentenced to imprisonment just because they distributed materials that expose the facts of persecution. They often face torture and there are special funds, special locations, special people and special tools in torturing Falun Gong practitioners. When Huang Cheng from Jinzhou, Liaoning province was tried in court, everybody could see the scars on his body; Chen Xinye from Shenyang, Liaoning province suffered a bone fracture in the beatings; they poured mustard water into the nostril of Li Zhigang from Harbin, Heilongjiang province; Zhou Huimin from Chengdu, Sichuan province was beaten to death.

When it comes to Falun Gong cases, the law is often trampled and it is hard to safeguard the defendant's right to defense. Sun Feng from Tangshan, Hebei province was deprived of his right to meet with his attorney; Ge Hefei from Handan of Hebei province was sentenced while his attorney was forbidden to intervene. In Falun Gong cases, attorneys are forbidden to defend their clients on the proper application of law or the nature of the incident. They are forbidden talk about the Constitution or human rights. They are only allowed to say whether the defendants did something or did not do something.

I and other human rights attorneys in China are suffering an increasing level of harassment, suppression, and persecution [by the government], because we serve as defense

counsels in cases of safeguarding the freedom of religious belief.

Respectively in 2006 and 2008, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice intentionally fabricated complications in the annual inspection and registration of my attorney's license. On July 9, 2009, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice announced that my attorney's license was revoked. We [human rights legal defenders] are often stalked, harassed and threatened by the secret police from Domestic Defense Protection Squad. On special occasions or when foreign leaders visit China, we are often forbidden to leave our residences. For example, when President Obama visits China next month, I will be forced to stay at home. My family members are also often harassed and people from the Bureau of Justice often come to talk with us and forbid me to get involved in some cases. Because our landlords can't endure the pressure from the secret police, they refuse to renew our leases, and therefore we often are forced to move out.

Because we handle cases involving religious belief, Li Heping, Li Xiongbing, Wang Yajun, Tang Jitian, Liu Wei, Wen Haibo, Xie Yiming, Wei Liangyue, Zhang Xingshui, other attorneys and I have still not passed the so-called "annual inspection." Therefore, there is no way we can continue to work as attorneys at this time.

However, legal professionals, including attorneys, members of house churches and other religious believers, have not abandoned their rights in face of the crackdown. The civil society in China is growing and will become more mature. I think all of you present here today should keep your confidence in this. We also need the attention and support from all of you present here today, and the U.S. government.

I propose the following:

1. We recommend that you pay more attention and give more support to the non-governmental forces in China, such as the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, so that more human rights attorneys can participate in the program;

2. We recommend President Obama and other government officials meet with human rights defenders and attend gatherings of house churches during their visit to China;

3. We recommend President Obama can talk with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao and restore the freedom of Liu Xiaobo, Chen Guangcheng, Hu Jia, Guo Feixiong and Guo Quan. We also hope that with President Obama's visit, we will be able to know the whereabouts of Attorney Gao Zhisheng;

4. We recommend officials in the U.S. Embassy in China make contact with human rights defenders and dissidents more often and more widely, and invite them to attend some activities held at the embassy.

Thank you!

#### A TESTIMONY ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHINA'S LAW ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(By Mr. Zhang Kai)

As a human rights attorney in China, I am hereby making this statement concerning the current status of its law on religious freedom as well as some suggestions based on cases related to house churches affairs and their human rights advocacy in recent years.

Over the past few years, a large number of Chinese people have been seeking faith and have become Christians. However, they are often unable to enact their everyday religious spiritual life under the law. Christian churches in China consist not only of the officially recognized TSPM churches, but also house churches organized by the believers themselves. The development of house churches was a result of the Christian belief

that Christ, rather than the government, should be the leader of the church. Because of the theological differences between the TSPM and the house churches, many Christians prefer to have religious gatherings with their relatives and families at their own homes.

However, members of these house churches are often interrupted, harassed and pressured by the government during religious services while meeting in their homes, with some believers administratively detained, reeducated through labor, and even criminally punished.

#### I. ILLEGAL INTERVENTION IN CHRISTIAN BELIEF MAINLY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

1. Banning house churches on grounds of being "cults."

In 2000, the Ministry of Public Security issued The Ministry of Public Security Circular Concerning a Few Questions About Identifying and Banning Cult Organizations. In this regulation, the following are confirmed: there are seven types of cult organizations clearly defined in the documents by the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council, and there are seven types of cult organizations identified and confirmed by the Ministry of Public Security, totaling fourteen types of cults. However, of these fourteen cults, eleven are related to Christianity—including the Shouters, the Disciple Union, and the Total Scope Church. Since this regulation runs directly counter to the basic principle of the modern rule of law concerning the separation of the government and religion, it has further led to the direct crackdown on a large number of house churches composed of bona fide Christians, tried or labeled as cults, in the course of law enforcement.

In accordance with Item 1 of Article 27 of the Security Administration Punishment Act currently in effect, anyone would be subject to administrative detention or fines (I) for organizing, abetting, intimidating, seducing and defrauding, or instigating other people into practicing cults or superstitious activities or for using cults or superstitious activities to disrupt security and order, and to harm the health of other people; (II) for conducting activities under the pretext of religion or Qigong, to disrupt security and order or harm the health of other people. This article has led to the confiscation and damages of the large amounts of church assets as well as the detention or reeducation through labor of believers.

2. Punishment on grounds of conducting cross-regional preaching.

In some local regulations, believers are prohibited from cross-regional preaching. However, one of the characteristics of Christianity, as a religion, is that Christians preach wherever they go and spread the Gospel to every corner of the world. In the Provisional Regulations on the Management of Religious Activities in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, it is clearly set forth: "Professional religious people shall not conduct cross-region, prefecture, city or county preaching without approval from the religious affairs bureaus of the government." In one place in Xinjiang, a believer, who went to another church, had barely read one sentence from the Bible when he/she was removed from the position in the church by the Religious Affairs Bureau. In some places, violators of this law are directly given administrative detention and even reeducation through labor.

3. Banning on grounds that they are not registered.

At present, the regulations on religious affairs require that the establishment, change, or cancellation of religious organizations be

registered in accordance with Regulations on Management of Registration of Social Organizations. However, house churches are unable to register independently. As a result, they are banned by local governments or the Public Security as illegal congregations or on grounds that they were not registered.

4. Intervening at will in the religious activities of believers.

According to the surveys conducted in some cities in southern Xinjiang this year, the government religious affairs departments (i.e., Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commissions) of Wensu, Baicheng, and the Aksu area, appointed or removed at will clergymen at the house churches and restricted the normal religious activities such as "breaking of bread" and baptism, without going through democratic elections by believers. Even the programs celebrating Christmas by believers must all be reviewed and approved by the religious affairs departments. Some religious venues were illegally shut down without following any legal procedures.

5. Suspected intention of insulting Christians.

In 2008, the People's Government of Wensu Town even issued a plaque of "Peaceful Mosque" to the Christian Church in Wensu. This action, by blurring the Christian and Muslim faiths, caused a widespread revulsion toward Christians, and may provoke the conflict among peoples of different religions in the future.

6. Large numbers of facts show that administrative penalty rulings are not issued and that fines were imposed without legal and official tickets.

For example, Li Enfu, a citizen in the Wushi area who has believed in Christianity ever since he was a child, had been appraised as an "Excellent Self-employed Individual" several times, even though he is handicapped. Yet, just because he had participated in religious activities, Li Enfu was fined repeatedly. In 2002, this citizen was fined 4,000 yuan and actually paid 2,000 yuan, just because he took a Christian calendar from the Wensu church and this calendar was an official publication of the government. In 2006, he was fined 8,500 yuan for attending a Christian gathering held at his own home. And in March 2009, Huang Ming and Li Enfu were fined a total of 3,000 yuan for holding the gathering and leading the prayers.

7. Punishing Uyghur ethnic minorities in Xinjiang for believing in Christianity.

In the Xinjiang region, it is especially difficult for the Uyghur people who believe in Christianity. They basically operate underground. In southern Xinjiang, there are about one hundred Uyghur Christians. They can only hold completely secret gatherings in groups of two or three people. Last year, their leader, Wusiman, was reeducated through labor, and co-leader Alimujiang was criminally punished.

#### II. COMMENTS ON THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF LEGAL RELIEF CONCERNING CHRISTIAN BELIEF

When lawyers involved in these kinds of cases provide legal services for believers, they often experience tremendous obstruction. For example, the courts refuse to take the cases; when they do take cases, they don't hold hearings; and when they hold hearings, they do not give rulings.

It is extremely difficult to file relevant cases with the courts, which do not go through any standard legal proceedings. According to Chinese law, if a case cannot be established, there should be a ruling that the case is not established. And based on that ruling, the party concerned has the right to appeal. However, very often, these courts neither process the filing of these cases, nor give any rulings. This year, in the Hanzhong

region in Shanxi, we instituted the relevant administrative proceedings, and the court just refused to take the case. Such phenomena are quite widespread. Although some cases were filed and the litigation fees were paid, the courts kept postponing the hearings. Four years ago, when I started administrative proceedings in the Hanyin area in Shaanxi, I was told by the local political and judicial commission that there wouldn't be any court hearings. Even now there still hasn't been any court hearing.

III. BASED ON THE ABOVE FACTS, WE ARE MAKING THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS

As the aforementioned facts mainly include the harm directly brought upon house churches by the judiciary or law enforcement, we hope that the international community can give more attention so as to increase surveillance and reduce such harm. We hope that the U.S. government will carry out more specific implementations in the following areas:

1. Urge and help the Chinese government to draw up the Religious Freedom Law, which should be consistent with universal values.
2. Have more American officials or those at the U.S. embassy in China attend worship services in house churches in China.
3. Have American government officials or staff at the U.S. Embassy in China periodically communicate with human rights lawyers to learn about their situations.

H.R. 3585, THE SOLAR TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP ACT

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on H.R. 3585, the Solar Technology Roadmap Act. By establishing a road mapping process for solar research, development, and demonstration, the bill provides essential aid for the solar industry. I offer my enthusiastic support.

Solar technology presents one of our most promising renewable energy sources. In fact, in my own district, the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), is conducting innovative research pertaining to solar energy and putting it to use. Several of the buildings on campus have solar panels that provide electricity for the school. The 40-kilowatt photovoltaic array on the roof of Walters Hall, made possible by state incentives, has the ability to generate electricity even on overcast days.

Thin film PV technology and molecular PV technology are of particular importance as they are the future of photovoltaic technology. By using this second generation of solar technology, we will be able to significantly lower costs while increasing conversion efficiencies.

I also specifically encourage demonstration projects in the 1 to 2 megawatt range. Increasing the energy productivity on these technologies, I believe, will have the greatest impact on the solar industry.

I congratulate Representative Giffords on her innovative legislation and look forward to seeing its effect on our renewable energy future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILLY HINDS SMITH

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, Bill's family asked me to say a few words about my memories of him as I first knew him and as so many of you knew him as you worked with him.

If I were talking about someone else, I would say something like "those of you who knew him in his professional position" or something like that, but that would be such a wrong idea of what Bill Smith was and why we all have such wonderful memories of him.

He was Bill Smith—Principal, Superintendent, friend, cohort, buddy.

I've often wondered if when people are experiencing the "best of times" if they knew it was the best of times.

I didn't know those early years at Richland High School would be some of the best years of my life, the best years of many of our lives, but I knew it was great fun and great excitement and Bill Smith made it so.

His own creativity brought out the creativity of the rest of us.

Whether you were on the ball field

On the stage

In the science club

Or the yearbook staff

He made it important to be a winner and enjoy the role you played.

His own sense of what was important and what was trivial infected us all and has stayed with me for years.

The trivial was treated by him as amusing. He just got a kick out of people and events.

He was a great storyteller and did some very good impersonations, but he didn't have a mean or petty bone in his body.

He loved what he did and he loved that school. The newness of a school can be exciting in and of itself, but the establishment of traditions, the development of an identity, those stay with a faculty, graduates, and a community forever.

He just had so much joy in it all. He was unabashedly proud and loyal to the school—and encouraging of all of us who were a part of it.

The whole community was in such a period of growth, and Bill was such a part of that so that the school and the community couldn't be separated.

It was as if the future were all in front of us, and he had found himself leading the band.

Paula Good said it so well after we talked and shared some memories. She said, "You know, I often felt he was a little bit surprised to find himself in his position."

I agree. And that added so much to the energy and enthusiasm he had.

He was never about his position or title.

And that is what helped him look at it so as to enjoy and soak up every day.

He approached life with such humor and such humanness.

He was funny and fun-loving and wouldn't take himself too seriously or let any of us around him.

He was so positive about everything. The smile never left his face, and the humor was always right on the surface.

I made so many mistakes in those years as a young teacher.

I finally decided to ask permission and seek some advice, but in the beginning, I just came up with an idea and did it!

And when it didn't work out exactly as I had planned, he would walk down to my room, he would put his hands behind his back, sort of lean back, grin and say, "Well, Ms. Granger, what have we been up to now?"

The time that remains vivid in my mind was a day when the school was closed but the yearbook staff was trying to meet a deadline.

They all trooped to the school to meet me but we had never checked to see if the school was unlocked, just assumed it would be.

It wasn't, but one of the kids said, "No problem, Ms. Granger, I can let us in."

He did and we were hard at work, when I walked Mr. Smith, the principal!

Same stance, same words, except he was accompanied by some of the city's finest—in blue uniforms.

A neighbor had reported a break in of the school. They had called Bill and all came to see who had come into the school from the roof.

Ooooh. Not good . . .

From Bill . . .

Same grin. Same question, and some advice he gave to me more than once: "Try it once. If it doesn't work, don't do it again."

That was the way he managed.

He never doused the enthusiasm. Never stopped the flow of energy. Always encouraging and believing anything was possible

With his teachers

With the students

With the community.

There are so many memories of that time and all are good ones.

And every picture in my mind has him smiling and finishing with his chuckle, and he is probably still thinking: "Ms. Granger, what are you up to now?"

TRIBUTE TO RALPH KLAASEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, San Clemente, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. I rise today to recognize and honor one of those individuals: Mr. Ralph Klaasen. On Friday, October 16, 2009, Ralph passed away. He will be deeply missed.

Ralph, a San Clemente resident since 1946, was a strong advocate for the south Orange County senior community for decades, serving as president of South County Senior Services and helping raise funds to build two San Clemente senior centers.

Ralph Klaasen, along with Rex Tyner, co-chaired a successful campaign to build the current senior center at 242 Avenida Del Mar in 1982 and then another campaign to build its larger successor, the Dorothy Visser Senior Center, now under construction at 121 Avenida Victoria.

Ralph also helped rally support to build Casa de Seniors, an affordable senior-housing complex. Through his work with South County Senior Services, he helped establish and administer other senior centers and programs from Dana Point to Laguna Hills.

Born in San Diego and raised in Whittier, Ralph attended Whittier College before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. "There were 13 major battles and I was in 12 of them," he once recalled. "It was a long ordeal."

When the war ended in 1945, Ralph Klaasen returned to his parents' house in Dana Point. He went to work in San Clemente and worked for the city for a short period in the 1940's but spent most of his career working in banking for Bank of America, Laguna Federal Savings and Great American while raising a family in town.

As Laguna Federal's longtime branch manager, Ralph was involved in community events and local charities. In 1975, the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce saluted him as the city's Citizen of the Year.

He retired in 1985 but continued to contribute to his community. In 2001, the city honored him on San Clemente's Wall of Recognition.

Ralph's dedication to his community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Ralph's family and friends; although Ralph may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

MILITARY HONORS FOR OUR  
NATION'S HEROES

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, please join me in supporting a bill which I have introduced, "Providing Military Honors For Our Nation's Heroes Act," H.R. 3886, to reimburse expenses of volunteers who provide military funeral honors at veterans' funerals.

Because thousands of service members are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan while thousands of World War II and Korean War veterans die each day, there is simply not enough military available to provide a proper funeral detail for these funerals. Some families of veterans have had to "make do" with a CD playing taps. I am saddened by this outrageous situation and determined to provide proper military funeral honors for all families who request them.

This bill will allow reimbursement to volunteers from members of veterans' service orga-

nizations, VSOs, and other organizations approved by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, VA. Transportation costs and other expenses, such as cleaning uniforms, incurred in providing funeral honors details will be reimbursed. A second change will allow reimbursement to details that are requested by funeral homes and the VA, as well as the Department of Defense.

Currently, members of VSOs and other volunteers can assist the military by providing a color guard, pallbearers, a bugler or firing party, but the law does not address ceremonies in which VSOs render honors without military representation. My bill will allow volunteers to be reimbursed even when no military person is a part of the honor guard. This change will increase the number of honors details available to families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN BRADY, Texas 8th Congressional District

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Project: Big Thicket National Preserve  
Account: National Park Service, Land Acquisition

Requesting Entity: The Conservation Fund, Texas Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 W 6th Street, Suite 601, Austin, TX

The Big Thicket National Preserve is one of America's ecological treasures. It is an unusually shaped preserve whose boundaries include land once owned by major timber companies. This funding represents the final year in a seven year land acquisition program. This request enables the National Park Service to acquire critical land within the congressionally authorized boundary of the Big Thicket National Preserve to diversify the economic potential of southeast Texas through increased tourism opportunities. This project works only with voluntary, "willing-seller" landowners.

The \$5,000,000 for this project included in this final conference report combined with previous funding will allow the National Park Service to purchase over 2500 acres of land on 23 tracts acquired from willing sellers or by voluntary donation.

H.R. 3619, COAST GUARD  
AUTHORIZATION ACT

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act. This is an important bill with many essential provisions, and I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for all of their hard work. This legislation authorizes \$10 billion in Fiscal Year 2010 funding for the Coast Guard, while also including several important provisions such as cruise vessel safety and port security. Congress has instructed the Coast Guard to do more and more in recent years, yet has not provided them the funding necessary to accomplish these objectives. This legislation provides the Coast Guard with the resources to meet Congressional directives. Unfortunately, I was unable to vote on this legislation, as I was on official business back in my district with HUD Secretary Donovan. I assure you that, if I was able to be here in Washington, I would have voted for this important legislation.

H.R. 3619 does a great deal to improve national security. The legislation improves on port security, and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on the threat of a terrorist attack on gas or chemical cargo shipments. Additionally, the Coast Guard Authorization Act combats alien smuggling by authorizing punishment for anyone who is bringing in people who are considered to be in the United States illegally. Provisions such as these are important for protecting our country from the threat of terrorism and ensuring our citizens are safe.

Once again, I would like to commend Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA on this strong legislation, and voice my support for H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act.