of America will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.

With President Bush’s leadership, America has tripled our development assistance to Africa. And we will double it again by 2010. I would like to recognize Andrew Natsios the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development who is helping Africa to expand and transform our partnership here in the developing world.

President Bush has launched the largest effort ever by one nation to combat a single disease—the $15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. And joining us here today is Randall M. Poland, President’s Coordinator for Global AIDS who is helping America give hope to thousands of men, women and children living with this disease.

Just last month, President Bush strengthened America’s partnership with Africa even further. He pledged $1.2 billion to fight malaria, with the ultimate goal of covering 150 million people in 15 nations. He also proposed new initiatives to train half-a-million African teachers, to offer scholarships to 300,000 African students, mostly girls, and to help several African states better protect the rights of their women citizens.

Not only is America giving new money, we are realigning how much of that money is given, together with Africans who believe in good governance, democracy, and an open society.

Under the leadership of Paul Applegath, who is here today, our Millennium Challenge Account Initiative is providing new development assistance to nations that govern justly, promote economic freedom, and invest in their people. So far, eight African countries have qualified to apply for grants, including Senegal, and, Madagascar, has already signed a development compact worth $100 million.

Development assistance can be catalytic. But it alone, will never enable people to lift themselves out of poverty. Open markets that allow individuals to realize the benefits of their own hard work are essential. This is the purpose of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, which brings us here to Dakar today.

AGOA represents the strong bipartisan consensus behind America’s support for Africa’s development. And it enshrines the principles of good governance as a condition of membership in the AGOA partnership, democratic reform, protect economic liberty, and strengthen the rule of law are the best partners to entrepreneurial citizens. So far, 37 sub-Saharan African countries are meeting these critical standards.

AGOA benefits everyone. African businesses create more, better-paying jobs. And American consumers receive more goods at lower prices, products like sorbet from South Africa, and woodcarvings from Tanzania, and tuna from right here in Senegal. Last year alone, non-oil imports increased 22%, and the United States imported over $26 billion in total from the AGOA group of African nations.

To expand the success of AGOA, African economies must become more competitive and be able to support the opportunities of trade. With these goals in mind, the United States is launching two new initiatives to build the capacity of African countries to trade more freely.

The first, which President Bush announced today, is the African Global Competitiveness Initiative. This will provide $200 million over the next five years to help the people of Africa participate more fully in trade. As part of this initiative, we are opening a fourth “trade hub” here in Dakar, where teams of experts from African countries trade more effectively with one another and with the United States.

The second initiative, which I am proud to announce today, is the AGOA Diversification Fund. Through this initiative, several U.S. agencies will support the efforts of African governments to diversify their economies and capitalize further on the promise of AGOA. One project, run by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, will provide grants and technical assistance to help West African nations increase the safety of their air travel and plan a new railway to better integrate the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Africa is a continent of overwhelming promise. All human beings possess the dignity and the capacity to flourish in freedom. And AGOA is helping the talented people of Africa to realize their natural potential for prosperity.

The United States will always offer our full support to the people of Africa as they build thriving democracies and achieve lasting development. You have set these goals for yourselves, and by yourselves. You are taking ownership of your destiny. And America is proud to be your partner.

(Applause.)

Now, it is my great honor to welcome Prime Minister Sall to the podium. Thank you very much for your time.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. (BOBBY) REESE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 6th we will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Atomic Age, widely celebrated as having begun when President Harry S Truman ordered the historic and fateful mission of the Enola Gay. But, another event took place on that day in and of itself that could have triggered the onset of this historic period, at least in the mind of Robert S. (Bobby) Reese, Jr., who was born on that day in Florence, South Carolina to “Big Bobby” and “Gemm” Reese.

Bobby worked here in Washington for more than 30 years representing the American Trucking Associations and the Altria Group. Many in this chamber have had the good fortune to seek his advice and to share much of that time with Bobby. During my tenure here, Bob has been a trusted advisor and personal friend. I, like many others in this august body, often partnered with Bobby on the golf course, and often shared with him the thrill of victory. Of course there were moments when Bobby and many of us experienced the agony of defeat. But I think that all of us will agree that he was always a reliable partner or tough competitor. And, at least with me, he never understood the phrase “customer golf.”

Bobby retired about two years ago and he and his lovely wife, Peggy, moved back to our home State and are enjoying their retirement in the Dunes West golf course community near Mount Pleasant. Bobby and Peggy are also enjoying spending more time with their four adult children: Patty, Cynthia, Taylor and Michael and two grandchildren Tayson and Reese, and our hopes that he, Peggy and all of the Reese family and friends will have a joyous occasion on August 6, 2005 and for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF UNITED HEALTH CENTERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, INC.

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Inc., on the opening of their new Kerman Health Center in Kerman, California.

United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley has been a dedicated leader in bringing quality medical care and services to underserved rural residents. In the effort to complete its mission, United Health Centers has brought to the forefront many public issues related to unintended healthcare concerns in the community.

Through the numerous clinics located in the heart of rural California, this organization offers a variety of services including family medicine, dental, x-ray, pharmacy and laboratory. United Health Centers has also adopted a preventative agenda and taken the initiative to implement family support programs such as prenatal care, nutrition, Women Infant and Children, health education, family planning and immunization.

The new Kerman facility is the latest addition to seven already existing health centers in Fresno and Tulare Counties. The last three decades have chronicled the growth of United Health Centers into Huron, Earlimart, Mendota, Kerman, Sanger, Parlier and Orange Cove. The two-story Kerman operation will house seven dental stations, ten examination rooms and a full-service pharmacy and lab.

United Health Center’s employees, directors and organizers have touched the lives of numerous economically disadvantaged individuals who are so often overlooked by existing healthcare organizations. This dedication ceremony marks an opportunity to welcome improvements in the availability of healthcare and also provides incentive to look toward the future for innovative and novel means of making adequate medical care accessible to all communities—specifically rural communities.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this closed rule and H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The manner in which this bill was handled is shameful. Both the Judiciary and the Intelligence Committee had jurisdiction over this legislation, yet somehow, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee
provided to our government through the provisions of the Patriot Act and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 are beyond worrisome. The inclusion of sunsetting provisions allows us to examine the practical effects, both positive and negative, before permanently allowing such a broad expansion of government.

As a freedom loving society, we must diligently monitor any infringement on our civil liberties to ensure it is justified. But this bill, allowing the virtually unchecked monitoring of the average citizen on the flimsiest of justifications, is inexcusable. Extending the sunset would give Congress a significant period of time in which to assess the impact of this considerable new authority. Members of the Intelligence Committee agreed; and my amendment had the support of almost every single Member of the Committee, both Republican and Democrat. Inexplicably, the amendment was later removed by the Judiciary Committee.

I asked Chairman SENSENIBRENNER point blank in the Rules Committee hearing yesterday why my amendment was removed from the bill. His response—"I don't know." He doesn't know, then who does? I guess somewhere between the fourth floor of the Capitol and the Judiciary Committee, my amendment must have been lost.

I believe the parsimony and incivility of the Judiciary Committee has unfortunately, infected the bipartisan manner in which the Intelligence Committee has always approached its work. Regardless, I am still committed to pursuing my amendment and working with the conference committee in a bipartisan fashion to reinstate my amendment into this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that, once again, I find myself protesting the manner in which legislation has been brought to the floor. Over sixty amendments were offered in the Rules Committee yesterday yet only twenty have been made in order. Forty amendments, including my own, will not be debated today. Even Representative HARMAN, the ranking Member on the Intelligence Committee, offered four amendments that the Rules Committee refused to make in order. In fact, none of the amendments offered by any Intelligence Committee Democrat is made in order under this rule. This is absolutely inexcusable.

America's national security is of paramount importance, but our security needs will not be met by limiting debate on the issue. The American people deserve a Congress that has fulfilled its Constitutional role by considering each and every idea put forth by its Members to improve this and all pieces of legislation.

Without a doubt the underlying bill could be improved; this bill amended Section 213 of the Patriot Act to require the government to notify the subject of a search warrant within 180 days of the search but does not sunset the provision. Statistics provided to Congress show that only eleven percent of the searches conducted using this power were related to terrorism—only eleven percent! Given that this overbroad search and seizure power is abused almost ninety percent of the time, isn't Section 213 the very model of a section in need of a sunset? Again, amendments were submitted to the Rules Committee addressing these issues but they were not made in order.

While no one in this body, Democrat or Republican, objects to this country's need to fight terrorism, the sweeping, un-checked powers the "USA PATRIOT Act," more commonly called simply the "PATRIOT Act."

I agreed that our law-enforcement agencies needed increased power and more tools to fight terrorists. But I also thought then—and still think today—that it was imperative for Congress to proceed carefully in order to protect Americans' civil liberties.

I take very seriously my duty to preserve and protect our Constitution. For me, this is a matter of conscience—and four years ago I concluded that I could not fulfill my duty and also vote for the legislation.

However, I took some comfort from the fact that a number of the most troublesome provisions of the new law were temporary and would expire unless Congress acted to renew them.

And the imminent expiration of those provisions is the reason this bill is before us today. I think the value of such "sunset" provisions is shown by the debate we are having today. It is evident that renewing Congressional action to renew agencies' authorities can and does result in ongoing Congressional oversight and periodic reconsideration.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today does not fully follow the good example of our procedures years ago. Instead, the bill would make permanent no fewer than 14 of the 16 provisions of the original "PATRIOT Act" that were covered by the law's "sunset" clause—as well as other new authorities provided by last year's bill to reform the intelligence community—and under the "sunset" for a full 10 years.

That is one of the main reasons I will vote against this bill. But it is not the only reason. Neither the expiring provisions nor the other sections of the "PATRIOT Act" are limited to cases involving terrorism. This makes even more troubling their potential for abuse or misuse in ways that intrude on Americans' privacy and civil liberties.

Because of that potential, over the last four years I have focused on the effects on the privacy of patrons and customers from the application of section 215 of the "PATRIOT Act" to libraries and bookstores.

Section 215 expanded the FBI's ability to obtain "any tangible thing" under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Previously, the government could obtain records only from hotels/motels, storage facilities and car rental companies, and only if the records pertained to agents of a foreign power. Now, it can seek "any tangible thing" from anyone at all as long as the information is relevant to an investigation.

Many of us think this is so broad that the government could investigate consumers' reading and Internet habits and private records (such as credit card information, medical records, and employment histories), without the requirement of relevance to any criminal activity that applies in grand jury investigations.

I would like to think that this authority will not be abused. But we cannot be sure that will not occur, and I think there are reasons to worry.

I understand, for example, that the American Library Association has confirmed that...