

lobbying reform. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, since President Bush took office, federal spending on earmarks has more than doubled—from \$33 billion in 2000 to \$67 billion in 2006. Sadly, Republicans have failed to deliver on reform. On September 5th, a USA Today editorial said, "Congress' answer to this ethics catastrophe has been a pair of competing measures in the House and Senate, which fall far short of what was promised in January but allow incumbents campaigning for re-election to claim they 'voted for lobbying reform.'"

The reality is that H. Res. 1000 will not save one taxpayer dollar, will not remove a single earmark, and does not cover all earmarks. This sham reform bill is solely a symbolic effort to hide the fact that the Republican Majority has failed the Nation on fiscal matters.

I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting a true, comprehensive lobbying reform bill that would ban travel on corporate jets, prohibit lobbyist gifts, slow the revolving door between Capitol Hill and K Street, shut down the K Street project in which jobs in lobbying firms were traded for legislative favors; shine the light on earmarks so that special interest provisions cannot be slipped into bills without public scrutiny, and put an end to some of the procedural abuses that have flourished in the Republican-controlled House.

Democrats are fighting for these comprehensive reforms to ensure that Congress is held to the highest ethical standards. Corruption has come at great cost to the American people—from the cost of prescription drugs to the price at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Democrats and I are fighting for a new direction, because Americans want and deserve the real reform that restores accountability, honesty and openness in Washington.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This bill will help secure the border and stem the unrelenting flow of illegal aliens into this country by authorizing 700 miles of two-layered reinforced fencing, mandating the Department of Homeland Security to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire border through various methods such as ground sensors, cameras and surveillance technology. It also requires the Department of Homeland Security to provide necessary authority to Border Patrol agents to disable fleeing vehicles, similar to the authority granted to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The provisions in this bill will address our country's vulnerability and strengthen operational controls along our borders. Border fences have a proven success rate in drastically reducing the number of illegal aliens entering our country illegally. When enacted, this bill will dramatically reduce illegal immigration and make us safer.

I have long been committed to stopping the flow of illegal immigration and securing our po-

rous borders. My constituents have made it clear to me they want our borders secure, our laws enforced and the flow of illegal immigration stopped immediately. The recent 22 immigration field hearings held across the country during the month of August yielded the same mandate from the American people, secure the borders now.

The amnesty provisions contained in the Senate-passed immigration reform measure earlier this year would encourage future illegal immigration and reward those who have violated America's laws with a quick and easy path to citizenship. There is more to be done in dealing with illegal immigration, but securing the borders must be the first step. America cannot afford to wait any longer and I will continue to push to secure our borders now.

HONORING PATRICIA HOLSINGER
RYAN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Patricia Holsinger Ryan for her years of service to our Middle Tennessee community.

While Patricia recently passed away, we know her legacy is one of charity and dedication. We know that her memory lives on in our memories and in those who benefited from her good works.

Patricia was known for her compassion and care for those in Williamson County's senior homes and Alzheimer centers. She brought her warmth and compassion to those in need.

Her work with mistreated pets across the State meant homes for thousands of unwanted animals, and was yet another sign of Patricia's commitment to giving back more to her community than she took.

We won't forget Patricia and our community is a better place for her life and her work.

INTRODUCTION OF TAXPAYER
PROTECTION FROM GENETIC
DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Taxpayer Protection from Genetic Discrimination Act. This bill ensures that no American taxpayer will be denied health care because of his or her genetic history by any agency of the federal government, a state or local government, or a government contractor. Some people have raised concerns that, while recent advances in genetic testing bring much hope of improved medical treatment, the increased use of genetic tests may also result in many people being denied access to health insurance, or even refused employment, because of their genetic history.

I recently met with some of my constituents who are concerned that people with polycentric kidney disease, which can be identified with a genetic test, often lose their insurance coverage because their insurance com-

panies or employers discover they have polycentric kidney disease. Whatever long-term reforms designed to address this problem one favors, I hope that all my colleagues could agree that Congress should make sure that American citizens are not forced to subsidize government agencies or contractors who deny health insurance based on someone's genetic profile. I therefore hope all my colleagues support the Taxpayer Protection from Genetic Discrimination Act.

RECOGNIZING JAMES FRAZIER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Frazier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. During his scouting tenure, James has earned the Philmont Scout Ranch Arrowhead, the BSA 50-Miler Patch, and the World Conservation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Frazier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SATISH KUMAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Satish Kumar, for a lifetime dedicated to teaching and serving as an inspiration to all. Mr. Kumar has done more, seen more, accomplished more and walked more than most and has never ceased in bringing his message to others.

Mr. Kumar started as a Jain monk at the age of nine before being called to greater causes. At 18, Mr. Kumar sought to make Gandhi's vision of a renewed India and peaceful world a reality. To this end Mr. Kumar walked, more than 8,000 miles, from India to four nuclear powers: Russia, France, Britain and the United States, to bring the leader of each a bag of tea and a message of peace and understanding. Carrying no money, he crossed deserts, traversed mountains, withstood snow and was even thrown in jail. Though Herculean in scale, Mr. Kumar's quest was completed, the tea was delivered, and he is still working to bring the message of peace to the world.

Mr. Kumar settled in England in 1973 to become the editor of Resurgence magazine, a post he maintains to this day, as well as the

founder of the Small School in Hartland. The school focuses on combining education with ecological and spiritual values. In 1991, Mr. Kumar helped found Schumacher College, an international center for ecological studies, and serves as its Director of Programmes. Mr. Kumar has also co-founded Jain Spirit, an international magazine that provides insight and information on Jain values and teachings, and helped to establish the School of the Seed, a college devoted to sustainable living in India. At 70, he still offers a weeklong course on Gandhian Values.

When Mr. Kumar was 50 years old he undertook another pilgrimage, once more with no money, he walked the holy sights in Britain, Glastonbury, Canterbury, Lindisfarne and Iona.

In 2000, Mr. Kumar was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Plymouth and in 2001 an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from the University of Lancaster. Mr. Kumar continues to teach, lecture, and run workshops on ecology, holistic education and voluntary simplicity and authors books on the same subjects.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join in honor, gratitude and recognition of Satish Kumar. His neverending quest to encourage and teach serves as an inspiration and his messages of world peace and simple living continues to affect the lives of many. I wish Mr. Kumar, his wife June Mitchell, and son, Mukti Kumar Mitchell, an abundance of health,

peace and happiness as he continues his journey onward from here.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 451, had I been present I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 452, had I been present I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 453, had I been present I would have voted "yea".