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House of Representatives

The House met at a 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURTHA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

August 3, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN P. MURTHA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, as Infinite Being, You have no beginning. In You there is no end. Have mercy on us who are so bound by time. You know us better than we know ourselves. You are aware how differently we act when we are near the final hour.

Whether it is the end of a lifetime or final moments before a performance or surgery or simply pondering a grave decision, all Your people need Your help at such critical moments. Be with the 110th Congress as it nears the end of this summer session.

The ancients called it final causality. We might refer to: the end product, the ultimate goal, final score or simply the end. Each calls forth judgment and draws us into its own abrupt closure.

As Americans we say, "In God We Trust." So prepare us, strengthen us, and enable us to embrace all endings with grace and finally say with free abandon, "So be it."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand a division.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, could the Chair tell me how many Members rose to request the recorded vote and the total number of Members present in the House upon which the Chair made his decision?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It's up to the Chair. And let me tell you this: The vote will show that the approval would be approved by the House, as it has been.

That is not a parliamentary inquiry. Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, does not the Constitution require that in order to get a yea and nay vote there has to be one-sixth of the Members present requesting a yea and nay vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One-fifth.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Excuse me, one-fifth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Further parliamentary inquiry. Does not a recorded vote in the House require the second of 44 Members?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One-fifth of a quorum is required.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Further parliamentary inquiry. Did one-fifth of the Members present stand? And, if so, how is it possible to challenge the call of the Speaker on the accuracy of the count of the Members present?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair's decision is not subject to question.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that one-fifth of the Members present did not support the demand for a recorded vote or a yea or nay vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's point of order is not in order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GRANGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ORDERING COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT TO IMMEDIATELY REVIEW EVENTS SURROUNDING VOTE ON H.R. 3161

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have a resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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H9659

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall immediately review the regularity of events surrounding the vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 3161, which occurred on August 2, 2007, and report back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, on this question of the privileges of the House, the party leaders will control 30 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night I said this was going to be an unhappy week for all of us. I did not expect what happened last night, however; and I regret what happened last night. Mr. MCNULTY is going to speak as well.

The vote was called. During the course of that vote, eight Members changed their votes after the vote was called 214-214, but the board, as everybody knows, at that point in time had reflected one of the Members who had changed their vote. There were at all times 428 Members voting. The vote went from 214-214, and then 215-213, and then 212-216. Obviously, the 214-214 would have had the motion fail. The 215-213 would have had it to prevail. And then the 212-216 would have had the motion fail. The minority, having been in that place, was understandably angry. I won't use the word "upset", understandably angry. If that happened to us, we would have been angry; I would have been angry.

At that point in time, I clearly believe that what had happened gave the impression that clearly, correctly would have been my impression that this was unfair; and, as a result, as the Members will recall, I asked to vacate the vote. That was objected to. So I then moved to reconsider the vote by which the motion to recommit offered by Mr. LEWIS had failed.

I thought it appropriate that that vote be retaken because of the confusion that occurred during the course of that vote and having three separate tallies indicated. I thought that was appropriate. In fact, that motion prevailed. We did reconsider that vote, and the vote passed, at that point in time, by voice vote, and then final passage of the bill. And the bill passed, the Agriculture appropriation bill.

But, clearly, people were angry. Words were said on this floor, unfortunately, that were not, I think, designed, as I said on Tuesday night, to maintain civility. But I don't blame the minority for being angry at what clearly appeared to them, which would have been the impression that I would have had, that they were being treated in a way that they thought was not fair.

It does no good to this discussion to repeat what has happened over the last 12 years, where we felt aggrieved. But when you feel aggrieved, it is justifiable grievement.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in the interest of having this matter reviewed by

the Ethics Committee to ensure that nothing was done that should not have been done, this motion simply refers this matter to the Ethics Committee.

This is no aspersion, I want to say, on the presiding officer. When he called the vote, that was the vote on the board, but it changed almost instantaneously at that time and clearly would have been something that correctly was interpreted as what's going on here.

We need to know what's going on here. My view is, because eight people change their votes, during the course of that, three Republicans changed their vote, five Democrats changed their vote. There have been a lot of questions about changing votes in the past, so we think it is appropriate that this matter be reviewed.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY), someone who has served in this body long and honorably and whose integrity, I think, is unquestioned by Members who have served with him on the Ways and Means Committee and in this House.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the majority leader's recounting of what happened last night is correct; and I wish to express my apology to all of the Members of the House for calling the vote prematurely. I called the vote at 214-214. Subsequently, Members of both parties changed their votes.

The majority leader is correct. Very soon after that the board showed a different vote, which was, I believe, in favor of the motion to recommit. And then when all of the Members had been counted, it was 212 in favor and 216 opposed. All of those numbers in those various iterations add up to 428. So all Members had voted, but Members of both parties had changed their votes.

I just want to express regret to all the Members of the House, and especially the minority, for any role that I had in causing that confusion by calling the vote prematurely. The Members who have been around for a long time, and staff, know that I have presided over the House many, many times since 1989, when Jim Wright first put me in the Chair. And all during that time, I have always strived to be scrupulously fair, to the extent where a number of Members of my party in the old days used to criticize me for calling voice votes in favor of the minority when the minority had more Members in the room than the majority did. And Members of the minority party mentioned that to me many times through the years, as did Members of the minority staff.

And so I just want to reiterate that I regret any role that I played in causing the confusion.

□ 0915

I just want to pledge to all of the Members of the House that I will con-

tinue to go out of my way to be fair when I am given the privilege of serving as Speaker pro tempore to all Members of the House and to both parties.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in January, when this Congress began, there were promises of the most open and ethical Congress in the history of our country. Over the last several weeks, I have been up on numerous occasions talking about the problems of how I believe the minority had been treated, only asking for fairness.

What happened last night not only disenfranchised minority Members, it disenfranchised Members of the majority party as well who had an interest in voting for that measure. I regret what happened last night. I think that it is very unfortunate. But it has been a pattern of activity that has gone on all year.

I think my colleagues on the majority side understand what I am saying. There were promises made, there were commitments made; and not only has none of it happened, but some of the actions taken by the majority over the last 7 months were actions that had never even been contemplated during the 12 years of Republican rule.

Now, I understand there were times when Republicans did things that were heavy-handed, and, in fact, I can understand why the minority was aggrieved at the time. But when you think about the opening several weeks, when we had one rule covering six bills, no amendments, one motion to recommit for six bills, things that we would have never even dreamt of doing have happened. But it has been time after time after time.

When we look at the activities of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, how there were no hearings, the size of the bill and then the conditions under which it was going to be brought to the floor, I think it was the straw that broke the camel's back. At least, I thought it was the straw that broke the camel's back, until last night.

The resolution that we are debating takes this issue and sends it to the Ethics Committee. As we all know, that is the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct that is referred to. Now, that, to me, does not appear, on the surface, to be the right place to send this issue. We all know about the problems of the Ethics Committee. Sending it to the Ethics Committee is sending it into what most people would describe as a "black hole."

Back in January, I suggested in a private meeting with the Speaker that I wanted the Ethics Committee to work, and the only way it was going to work was that if she and I locked arms and told our Members and told the American people that we are going to ensure that the Ethics Committee work.

That hasn't happened. The fact is, the productivity, I don't know whether

there is productivity or lack of productivity in the Ethics Committee, because we have not seen anything out of the Ethics Committee thus far this year.

I would suggest to the gentleman that if you are serious about getting to the bottom of what happened and serious about preserving the integrity of the House and ensuring that there is no disenfranchisement of Members on either side of the aisle, that a conversation between the two of us, or the two leaderships, might be a better course of action for the entire House.

I have a privileged resolution that I have drawn up that would set up a select committee of Members to deal with only this issue. It may be, I think, a wiser course of action. I would be happy to discuss this with the gentleman.

I would say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that what happened last night happened last night, and that if we could have a commitment of getting to the bottom of what happened last night, that we ought to proceed with the business that the American people sent us here to deal with.

Now, I know that there are those on my side of the aisle, and probably some on the other side of the aisle, who would rather fight all day. But at the end of the day, our responsibility is to the American people. This is the people's House.

I accept the regrets offered by my friend from New York. Having been in the chair myself, I understand how it can happen. He and I are friends. In fact, he is one of the fairest Members who could ever be in the chair. But we need to have some understanding early today, if in fact we are going to proceed today in an orderly fashion, that we are going to do it in a way that dignifies this institution and dignifies our responsibility to the American people to do their work.

So I would ask my friend if he would consider withdrawing the resolution that he has on the floor, allow us an opportunity to sit down and discuss this, and see if we can't come to some mutually agreeable way to proceed on the issue of what happened and how we preserve the integrity of the House and the rights of all Members.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOEHNER. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. I thank my friend for the tone of his remarks, the focus of the substance of those remarks in terms of ensuring that the House runs in a fashion that Members certainly are given full consideration in terms of casting of their votes, and I will certainly look forward to discussing with the gentleman that issue.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman and I have had an opportunity to discuss various issues in a way that I think was positive. I think the remarks hopefully that both of us are making indicate

that we have the ability to continue to do that and want to do that.

I would say to my friend that I, when we complete this action, would look forward to visiting with him in his office or he in mine to discuss that. My suggestion would be that we perhaps unanimously adopt this resolution so that the Ethics Committee can look at it, but not exclusively, as the gentleman indicates and proceed.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the whole point of the suggestion that I made that we withdraw this to go into a conversation or negotiation where the gentleman has 10 cards in his hand and I have one clearly would put me and my colleagues at a disadvantage.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we don't want to do that. If the gentleman is indicating that he would prefer not to offer any resolutions at this time, I would certainly, at this point in time, if that is our understanding, be prepared to withdraw this resolution.

Mr. BOEHNER. I would be happy to hold off on the resolution that I was planning on offering and look forward to our conversations.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the House, a proposition may be withdrawn before any action thereon as a matter of right.

The resolution is withdrawn.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to proceed with caution. We all know that it has been a tough week. We all know that we are right up against the August recess. And we all know there is a lot of passion in the room.

I don't know what the order of the House will be today. I heard some discussion about going to the Defense appropriation bill. But I would ask my colleagues that we do our work in a businesslike fashion, that we treat each other with respect, and that we proceed in a way that the American people would be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman for an update on the schedule.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for that comment, and I share his view.

Mr. Speaker, we have not yet had a meeting of the Rules Committee. I expect the Rules Committee will be meeting as soon as we leave here. I am not sure the exact time that it is scheduled. But we will be providing for rules. We intend to do a number of pieces of legislation. The gentleman has mentioned the Department of Defense bill.

Rules is not yet scheduled, but I presume it will be scheduled shortly.

The Department of Defense appropriation bill is a critical bill. We intend to consider that today. We also intend to consider Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act legislation to enhance the ability of the Director of National Intelligence and those with whom he works to pursue those who might harm our country.

We also intend, Mr. Leader, to have on the floor a bill which is an emergency bill to respond to the bridge falling in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We also intend to consider an energy bill.

As I said on Tuesday, if we can complete that legislation today, we will do so. If not, we will complete it tomorrow. If we cannot complete it tomorrow, we will complete it on Monday. That is the order of business that we have contemplated.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, is the gentleman planning on having legislation on the floor tomorrow?

Mr. HOYER. As I said on Tuesday night, the legislation that I just mentioned, and there may be some other suspension bills, we intend to finish that business. I would hope it would not take us until Monday. We are going to have a discussion, and perhaps we can pursue that.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could suggest to the majority leader that in the interest of the House and in the interest of trying to find a way to proceed today, that we might recess the House for a few minutes so that we can have this discussion that we have been referring to.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield, we will have this discussion as soon as we leave the floor. But there are a number of Members who wanted to do 1-minute. I suggest we proceed with those at this time, if that is agreeable.

Mr. BOEHNER. Fine.

□ 0930

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR). The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CHAMP ACT

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, this House passed the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act. This bill demonstrates the values that freshmen Members like me and others were elected to bring to this Congress. By reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program, we expand coverage to an additional 5 million children.

Additionally, the CHAMP Act takes care of America's seniors and the disabled by assisting Medicare recipients

with copayments, deductibles, and prescription costs.

In my district, I hear from doctors, patients and hospitals about the strains that cuts to Medicare and Medicaid have placed on our health care system. This bill takes a first step towards rebuilding our social safety net by preventing pay cuts to physicians, ensuring that doctors continue to accept Medicare patients, and seniors are able to see the doctors of their choice.

By passing the CHAMP Act, this Congress showed that we believe hard-working American families should have access to affordable health care for their children and their grandparents.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT AGREED TO

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, let me say when we left here last night, I have left the House frustrated, I have left the House encouraged, I have left the House proud, I have left the House not so proud. I have never the House ashamed before.

Now what I just heard here this morning, I don't agree with it, the idea that somehow we have massively violated the traditions of the House and the only penalty is we will be more careful in the future.

I decided for 4 years when that vote would quit as the whip. That was my job. We never stopped the vote until the Clerk handed the person the piece of paper that said what the vote was, and the vote on the piece of paper was 215-213.

The remedy for the House that would solve this problem is to let the vote stand. A majority of this House voted that illegal immigrants would not receive these benefits. That is what the vote was about. All you've got to do is go back to committee, amend the bill and come back to the floor.

You lost the vote. I didn't hit the gavel. I didn't speak over the Clerk who was trying to read the vote. The Chair did. The Chair decided the vote was over. It doesn't matter what that board says. What matters is what the tally was.

A week of violations of the principles of the House culminated last night in such an excessive way that Republicans walked off the floor, and it was a deserved walkout. And I am ashamed of the House.

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. How quickly we forget.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Mental Health Schools Act of 2007,

which proposes to expand access to school-based mental health services. It would provide grants to local school districts or coalitions of schools, health providers and communities. It would identify students in need of immediate mental health care on site, require schools to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate training for students, parents and members of the community.

The statistics we have learned in the last few years are alarming, and they tell an alarming truth. Childhood mental illnesses affect nearly one in five adolescents. One in three Latina adolescents contemplate suicide. The time for action was a long time ago, and we need to move forward on this. The need for mental health services has never been greater.

Enacting this legislation will be a great benefit to our society. It would allow mental health professionals to care for our kids in need of immediate health and allow our teachers to concentrate on teaching.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT AGREED TO

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to some of the comments that were just made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle; notably, "how quickly we forget."

Also what the majority leader just said about our anger, and he understands our anger. Well, you know what? I don't think he understands our anger when he says it does no good to repeat the last 12 years of our feeling aggrieved. Because I can assure you that never once did we in the majority attempt to steal a vote, attempt to steal a vote to make sure, to make sure that illegal immigrants, to make sure that our position, the Republican position to defeat the ability for benefits to flow to illegal immigrants. That is what this is about.

So, Mr. Speaker, as the whip said before me, the gentleman from New York admits a mistake and apologizes. We accept that apology. It was a bad call.

But the price to pay for that bad call should be to admit that the motion to recommit passed, the bill should go back to committee, the committee does its work, and the bill comes back to the floor.

PASS ENERGY BILL TODAY TO MAKE US SAFER

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today there is going to be lots of talks about process and procedures and walkouts and delays. The American people don't want us to focus on process. They don't want us to walk out. They want us to move forward.

One way we can move forward on both sides of the aisle is to pass an energy bill today as a matter of national security. Because 2 years ago the Department of Defense spent \$10.6 billion to fuel itself to protect us. The Air Force spent \$4.7 billion on one thing: Fuel.

We are in a situation right now where we are borrowing money from China to fund defense budgets to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to protect us from China and the Persian Gulf.

This is not the time to delay or walk out. This is the time for us to work together, move America forward, pass an energy bill and make us safer.

STRENGTH OF DEMOCRACY IS HOW YOU TREAT MINORITY

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have only been in the House for 23 years, so I guess I am still in some ways still a novice, but I have never seen anything like last night. When you look up on that board over there and over there, it says "215-213 final," that's it. In the 23 years I have been in the House, I have never seen a vote that said "final" and been gavelled reopened until last night.

I mean, how important is it that you win a motion to recommit? My gosh, all you do is take it back to committee, report it back out, muscle your troops in line, and pass the bill as you want it.

Now I know there are men and women of integrity on the Democratic side of the aisle, because last week the dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, in the Energy and Commerce Committee, when I as a ranking member used a procedural rule to force the reading of bill, he read the bill. It is not what he wanted to do, but it is what the rules allowed and required.

The strength of a democracy is how you treat the minority, and the minority's strength is in using the rules. When we are smart enough to use the rules and win, we ought to let it count.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION ON POLICY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the 110th Congress came into action with the mandate from the American people to change the way business is done in Washington, and they wanted action on policies. They want action on policies that affect their everyday lives; and this Congress gave it to them with a minimum wage increase for the first time in a decade, with an ethics bill that helps drain the swamp and change the way we do business with lobbyists and make this truly the people's House.

We also did it with the CHAMP bill that gives 6 million more children insurance and gives doctors the reimbursement they deserve, and seniors and people with disability the opportunity for health care.

We passed ethics reforms. We have done things to make this House better.

One thing the President and the people want us to do is work together. They don't want dilatory tactics by either side, and we have seen them, and the people on the other side know they have engaged in them. We need to have order in this House, respect for this House, and respect for the American people.

CHANGING OUTCOME OF VOTE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Democratic majority leadership was in the process of attempting to violate the House of Representatives' rules by holding a vote open with the sole intent of changing the outcome of the vote.

As the vote changed from 214 "yeas" to 214 "nays" to 215 "yeas" to 213 "nays," the Speaker pro tempore brought down the gavel. Because he then realized the vote was in favor of the Republican motion, he didn't know what to do. The lighted scoreboard at either end of the Chamber showed 215 "yeas" to 213 "nays."

Then the Speaker and Parliamentarian allowed two more Democrats to change their vote. So the vote finally announced was 212 "yeas" and 216 "nays." The Parliamentarian said the vote was actually 214-214 when the vote closed. However, of course, he had no explanation for why the vote was officially called. He allowed the vote switching to continue until the vote became what it was announced. That is clearly because there is no proper explanation other than that, on the way to violating one rule, it became necessary to violate another.

It is also noteworthy that the vote was to further enable people who are breaking the law in America by being here illegally to not only break the law but receive money from those forced to pay taxes.

Then came the astounding news that the record was wiped clean of the computer evidence of what went wrong. When rules and laws don't matter, we change the destiny of history.

REMEMBER OUR MANNERS

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I have only been here 6 months as a freshman, but I have to tell you that I know America is watching, and I am wondering if our mothers are watching.

This is very rude behavior, the calling out, the cat-calling; and I think we understand that the American public sent all of us here to work together. Yes, there have been mistakes. I do recall when they were doing the Medicare part D how the vote was kept open by the majority for 3 hours while the Secretary of Health and Human Services walked up and down the aisle. That wasn't right, so all is forgiven.

The point here now is that the American public is watching us. They expect us to get this work done. They expect our behavior to be responsible and respectful. We wouldn't call out like this in a movie theater. We certainly shouldn't be calling out this way in the House of Representatives. I call on all of us to remember our manners.

ISSUE IS WHETHER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAN GET BENEFITS

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the issue before us is whether or not illegal immigrants can get government benefits, and the Democrat majority in this House has shown that they are willing to cheat in order to win a vote. Cheat in order to win a vote. And—

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like the gentleman's words taken down, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Clerk will report the words.

□ 0945

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my words.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina may proceed.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, my point is that the actions of the Democrat majority on the House floor last night besmirches the character of this House, and it's because they support giving benefits to illegal aliens in this country, and it's about the issue of illegal immigration and whether or not illegals in this country can receive government benefits. They're willing to protect some of their freshmen vulnerable Democrats and make them toe the line.

But Mr. Speaker, when they lost the vote on the House floor, the Speaker came down and voted in this well in order to tie that vote, and when that wasn't good enough and when a vote switched and they lost, they lost that vote, they're willing to gavel it down in order to protect themselves from a tough vote demanding that illegals do not receive government benefits.

So, Mr. Speaker, was it a cover-up? Was it a sham? Absolutely. And some,

some believe the actions were cheating the facts.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1318

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR) at 1 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 600 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 600

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of Friday, August 3, 2007, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

(1) The bill (H.R. 3087) to require the President, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior military leaders, to develop and transmit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for the redeployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, additionally, I ask unanimous consent that our colleagues be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 600.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 600 authorizes the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules at any time through the legislative day of Friday, August 3, 2007, on the following measures:

First, H.R. 3087, a bill to require the President, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other military leaders, to develop and transmit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for redeployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq; and, second, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly important at this juncture in my remarks that I make it very clear that we have heard a lot of talk from the other side of the aisle about the need to reform FISA. The Director of National Intelligence has identified a specific intelligence collection gap and spoken of "a backlog for things requiring a warrant," and I quote him. He claims that this is hindering our efforts to prevent terrorist attacks.

Congress, Mr. Speaker, takes its responsibilities to protect the Nation seriously. None of us on either side of the aisle want to leave our intelligence professionals short. The Intelligence Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Homeland Security Committee, and the leadership have been working around the clock to come up with a solution that addresses this particular problem. However, again and again, the administration has overplayed their hand. Each time we get close to an agreement, they ask for more, and I might add the negotiations on this have been going on for over a year.

First they said Congress needed to clarify that the government shouldn't need a warrant to collect foreign communications. There was never ever any disagreement about that.

Then they said they wanted broader authority to conduct electronic surveillance of terrorist communications. We agreed to that.

Then they said they wanted immunity for the telecommunications carriers. We agreed to give them prospective immunity and would consider retrospective immunity when we get back.

But we insist on a couple of things. We want to preserve the role of the FISA Court as an independent check on the government to prevent them from infringing on the rights of Americans, and we insist that this legislation have a sunset. In this rushed environment before recess, we should not make permanent changes to FISA.

Last night, the congressional leadership was willing to make further changes for Director McConnell. He said with those changes he would support the bill because it would "significantly enhance America's security." And I am quoting him again. But after this agreement was reached, congressional Republicans insisted on a much broader, permanent bill, giving the Attorney General, this Attorney General, not the Court, the discretion to make decisions about surveillance involving Americans. Clearly, in my judgment, they are not negotiating in good faith.

If they reject this bill, the other side is saying, in the face of a resurgent al Qaeda, they don't want to plug the collection gap identified by the Director of National Intelligence immediately. They are rejecting "significantly enhancing America's security."

Now, if the other side insists on manufacturing obstructionist delays and rejecting agreements that will enhance our security, we can stay here all August and September and December until we get this done. The security of this Nation deserves no less.

This rule is necessary, Mr. Speaker, because under clause 1(a), rule XV, the Speaker may entertain motions to suspend the rules only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each week. In order for suspensions to be considered on other days, as my colleagues well know, the Rules Committee must authorize consideration of these motions.

This is not an unusual procedure, as some on the other side may suggest. In fact, in the 109th Congress, alone, my friends on the other side of the aisle reported at least six rules that provided for additional suspension days.

This rule limits the suspension of rules to only these two bills and will help us move important legislation before we leave for the August recess. Time is, indeed, of the essence. Not because many in this body wish to go home this weekend but, rather, because of the gravity of these situations both here at home and abroad.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this rule and the underlying piece of legislation.

I do wish to put my colleagues on notice that, following the conclusion of debate on this rule, I intend to offer an amendment to the rule. My amendment will permit the House to consider emergency legislation today appropriating \$250 million to begin the reconstruction of the I-35 bridge, which collapsed this week in Minnesota. We have properly given our condolences and continue those to those who have lost loved ones and those who are awaiting word regarding those who are still missing and those who have been injured. All of us grieve with all of them.

Without this amendment and this rule, this legislation will not be permitted to proceed; and these emergency funds would be delayed. Realize a vote against this rule and my amendment to the rule will be a vote against providing this emergency assistance to the people of Minnesota, specifically Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the gentleman from Florida yielding me time, and I do know that we are here today, among other things, to seek immediate resolution from the United States Congress to help the wonderful people of Minnesota in their time of grief by authorizing money that will be spent to immediately rebuild the bridge that collapsed over the Mississippi.

All Members of this body watched the horror the other night as we saw not only the collapse but also the heroism of men and women, first responders and others, as they joined in to help the people of Minneapolis-St. Paul as they struggled with this.

I would note that the committee action, regular order, has taken place to make sure that this bill would be before not only the Democrat majority but also we as Republicans participated in each of these activities.

□ 1330

The gentleman stood up and talked about how great and wonderful and what normal and regular things happen around here, but these are not normal times.

Once again today, here we are on the floor of the House of Representatives almost as a new low, I would say, Mr. Speaker, being asked to debate a rule on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and we don't even have a copy of the bill. So I would like to ask the gentleman from Florida, can we please see a copy of the bill?

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. This matter is under suspension. My friend on the Rules Committee and I were there when it passed out of the Rules Committee on suspension, and that requirement is met.

Mr. SESSIONS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand this. This new Democrat majority that comes to town, talks about open and honesty, ethics above reproach, all the things that they would do differently than what the Republicans have done, and they have not lived up to that.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would yield to the gentleman if he will answer the question: Where is the copy of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that we're doing the rule on today that we're expected to vote on today?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Thank you for yielding. It is in the hopper. The minority members of the Intelligence Committee have the measure.

Mr. SESSIONS. Reclaiming my time, I would yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding, and I see we're joined here by a very distinguished member of the House Committee on Intelligence. I think we have been, for literally months, trying to make in order the legislation that has been introduced by our friend from Albuquerque (Mrs. WILSON), and we believe that that, in fact, is the answer to this problem.

The President of the United States, in the news conference that he held with Mike McConnell about an hour ago, made it crystal clear that he is going to ask the Director one question: If he gets legislation that emerges from this body, will it, in fact, enhance our ability to make sure that foreigners on

foreign soil who are trying kill us, if the legislation provides them with the tools to intercept those conversations and prevent them from having the ability to attack the United States of America?

Now, my friend from Dallas has just very correctly said, can we see the legislation that we're expected to vote upon today if this suspension rule is made in order that will do exactly what the President has said is necessary to ensure the safety and the security of the American people?

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman from California for his words.

Mr. Speaker, this Democrat majority has simply not lived up to the words that it spoke when it became the new majority. And it was a campaign promise that is reiterated on a regular basis all through this Chamber and all the committees. Most disappointing among these is the forgotten promise that Democrats promised to be the most open, honest and ethical Congress in history.

And I will now quote Speaker PELOSI from page 24 of *A New Direction for America*, and I quote, "Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process that grants the minority the right to offer its alternatives, including a substitute."

I further quote the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, on November 12, 2006, just a week after election. She said, "My fellow Democrats and I have long felt that the Rules Committee was failing its major obligations. We publicly argued that it was being used to shut down the legislative process for partisan purposes. But now that the Democrats will control the committee we will have a chance to change all that."

Mr. Speaker, they have not changed it. They've made it worse.

We do understand right now, as we speak, we have a copy of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that evidently has only now been given to the minority.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. At this time, I am very pleased to yield to my colleague, with whom I've served 7 years on the Select Committee on Intelligence. She was the ranking member and is now the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Before yielding to Ms. HARMAN, who has gone down this road for well over a year to get us to this point, I would like to say to my friend from Texas that perhaps it would be helpful if he would ask the minority members of the Intelligence Committee about the bill.

Secondly, the measure that we are dealing with is a rule providing for suspension, not consideration.

That said, I yield 3 minutes to my friend from California (Ms. HARMAN).

Ms. HARMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding and commend him for his long service, both on the Intelligence and Rules Committees.

I am now the Chair of an Intelligence Subcommittee of Homeland Security. As no one in this Chamber would miss, security is my passion, and I think it is our primary obligation as Members of Congress.

I was sitting here listening to the discussion about where is the bill and why aren't we acting on FISA? It seems a little disingenuous, given the fact that the current ranking member on the Intelligence Committee and former chairman, has an article in *USA Today* in which he says that this move to get the administration to put its surveillance program under FISA "gives legal protections to foreign enemies who would do us harm."

Excuse me? FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act passed by a large bipartisan majority in 1978. FISA was passed to assure that Americans, not foreigners, would have their constitutional rights protected when the U.S. engages, as it must, in foreign intelligence surveillance.

I don't think there is anyone here, not that I know of, who is against foreign intelligence surveillance. There is no one in this body, I haven't heard one person say that we think that when the U.S. engages in foreign intelligence surveillance, in foreign countries involving communications between foreigners in different foreign countries, that FISA applies. But FISA can and must apply when Americans' constitutional rights are at issue, and that is the issue we will debate a little bit later.

I want to say that it surprises me again that all of a sudden no one knows what we might be talking about. There have been intense negotiations, I have been a part of some of them, for months over what we might do to make FISA work better. In the 109th Congress, all nine Democrats on the Intelligence Committee authored legislation to help FISA work better; and in this Congress I'm aware of both closed and open hearings by the Intelligence Committee to carefully consider these issues.

So it seems to me quite surprising and disingenuous to hear that, for example, the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee doesn't even feel that FISA protects Americans; he thinks that it coddles foreigners.

I am happy to yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Ms. WILSON of New Mexico. I thank the gentlelady because I have some confusion over here, and you may be able to help me.

As I look at this, I think this is the bill that was rejected by the Director of National Intelligence 36 hours ago as insufficient. And it is not the bill that, as I understand it, was going to be accepted by the Senate this morning that the DNI proposed.

Is the House offering a different bill than has been accepted by the Senate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentlelady an additional minute to respond.

Ms. HARMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Reclaiming my time, I don't have a copy of the latest draft. It may be one I've seen, but I'm not absolutely positive. My understanding is that negotiations have been going on for quite a long time and that the requirements of the DNI have been met.

What is happening, and I think it's a real tragedy for the American people, is that the goalposts keep moving. I just wonder whether the other side wants this to be a wedge issue or wants to solve the problem.

As one Member here who has worked on this for years, I want to solve the problem; and we will attempt to do that under the suspension rules later today.

Mr. SESSIONS. You know, Mr. Speaker, we talk about this genuine desire to solve the problem, but the fact of the matter is we're about as close as midnight and noon in our thoughts and beliefs as parties for doing that.

I hearken back to just a few days ago in the Rules Committee, where some of the questions from my good friends on the Democrat side are: Well, what about the constitutional rights of some of these people who live in other countries who are known terrorists, what about their constitutional rights? And we need to take those into account.

Mr. Speaker, it's amazing how we're sitting here debating something that's in the best interests of this country, and some people are more concerned about the terrorists' rights than they are about protecting this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I have the highest regard for my California colleague (Ms. HARMAN). She knows that very well. We share representing Los Angeles County here. And I know that she has worked very hard on intelligence issues.

But I will say that I am very troubled with the exchange that I just saw take place between my friend from Albuquerque here, who has worked on this. She talked about the fact that we have legislation that was just rejected 36 hours ago by the Director of National Intelligence, Mr. McConnell. And my friend from California has just said something to the effect that she's not sure exactly what bill it is that we're looking at. I'm not an expert on this myself.

I would be happy to yield to my friend if she wants to respond at all on this.

Ms. HARMAN. Well, what I meant was that I'm aware that there were negotiations going on with the DNI last

evening. So drafts have been shared back and forth. All I said was that I came over to the floor to support the rule to permit this issue to be addressed under suspension, and I don't have in my hand what may be the latest version.

Mr. DREIER. Reclaiming my time, I know my colleague would certainly share this concern to support the rule, but we like the idea of seeing what it is that we're about to vote upon before we do that. I know that may be an unusual request under this majority, but I think that is definitely fair. And I will say that I think that it's right and correct that Members have a chance to see what it is that they're voting upon, rather than having something thrown upon them.

And we have Mrs. WILSON, who has legislation that we've offered probably a dozen times on our quest to defeat the previous question on rules so that we could at least allow consideration of this. And so that has led us, I believe, to this point.

But I think it is just absolute lunacy to believe that we are, at this moment, in a position to go ahead and vote upon something that we don't know what it consists of. And I know my friend would agree with that, that we really shouldn't have a pattern like that.

Ms. HARMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I would be happy to yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield 30 seconds to Ms. HARMAN.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, just to respond to that, I'm not interested in lunacy, and I know that Mr. DREIER is not, and I'm sure that Ms. WILSON and Mr. HOEKSTRA are not either.

There is a way to solve this problem correctly. I believe that the draft, which I'm certain will be circulated to everybody imminently, I believe that you will see that it is a very careful and balanced effort to address this problem, and it has been shared.

Mr. DREIER. If the gentlewoman would yield, I think I've got it in my hands right now.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. The gentleman says he has a copy of the bill in his hand. I would remind the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee, who is my good friend, that this rule is to make in order a suspension day.

Mr. DREIER. I understand that.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I'm glad you do understand it.

I would ask the gentleman from Texas to ask his Republican colleagues on the Intelligence Committee why they didn't share the bill with the Rules Committee Republicans. We cannot control what you do or do not do.

And under the circumstances, Ms. HARMAN just made it very clear to you that the goalposts keep moving. You try to act as if you don't know that for a year and a half that this has been

going on here in this intelligence community, working with this administration, trying to take care of this matter.

Now understand this. First, you said on that side that Congress needed to clarify that the government shouldn't need a warrant to collect foreign-to-foreign communications. There was never any disagreement about that, and stop saying it to the American public.

Then they said they wanted broader authority to conduct electronic surveillance of terrorist communications. We agreed to that.

Then they said they wanted immunity for the telecommunications carriers. We agreed to give them prospective immunity and consider retrospective immunity when we get back.

Last night, not yesterday, not midnight to noon, and some people have gotten caught in the dark, last night, the congressional leadership was willing to make further changes for Director McConnell. He said that with those changes he would support the bill because it would, in his word, "significantly" enhance America's security.

But after this agreement was reached, congressional Republicans insisted on a much broader bill giving the Attorney General, not the Court, the discretion to make decisions about surveillance involving Americans. Clearly, in my judgment, as I said previously, you're not negotiating in good faith.

I remind you once again that this rule is to make in order a suspension day. You will have all the time you need to do all the reading you need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 21½ minutes. The gentleman from Florida has 13½ minutes.

□ 1345

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, we just heard it straight out: You don't need to see the bill. You will see it whenever we want to give it to you. You don't need it. All we are doing down here is playing tiddlywinks with national security.

Mr. Speaker, I disagree with that. We disagree with that. I think this is an unfair way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the privilege to serve on the Intelligence Com-

mittee now, but in the 1980s I did. Then, following that, in the 1990s when I served in California as the attorney general, I recall getting security briefings from the intelligence community from Washington, DC.

It was during the Clinton administration that Admiral McConnell was the head of the NSA. I do not recall any partisan or bipartisan dispute about his qualifications, his professionalism or his judgment. He is the man that the President has brought out of retirement to be the Director of National Intelligence. He is the one that has presented to us in open and in closed testimony why we need this.

I think it is fair for us to ask, if we are getting a draft that he has rejected, why it is the draft that is going to be presented to us under the suspension calendar. Unless we have changed the rules of the House in the 16 years I was gone, the whole concept of a suspension bill is that you suspend all the rules for noncontroversial bills. Noncontroversial bills. If the head of our intelligence services believes that this is so controversial we ought to reject this, then why is it being brought up under this kind of a suspension?

Now, I have tried to work and have worked with the gentlewoman from California on many occasions getting bipartisan legislation through this floor. But this is the single most important bill that I have seen brought up in the 3 years that I have been back, and maybe in the 10 years I was here before.

This goes to the question of whether we take our blinders off with respect to intelligence, with respect to what kind of chatter that is going on around the world. And, yes, they say we all agree that foreign-to-foreign communications ought to be not under the purview of the Court, because we understand that has never been protected under the Constitution. We have been informed that the draft that we are talking about would not allow us to do that in the way it is necessary to protect this Nation.

That is why it is so important; not that it is partisan, not that somebody came here under one rule or another, but because the head of intelligence for the United States has said we can't accept this draft. If he says that, we ought to listen to him. We ought to try and get something that will work.

So let's forget about this nonsense of partisanship. Let's not get up here, shake something out here in the hand and say, well, you have had it long enough. I don't know how long it took the Constitution to be written from beginning to end. It wasn't how long it took. It is the words they put there. It is what they actually produced. That is what we are going to be judged by; not by how many hours we were here, but whether we got it right.

The Director of National Intelligence has told us we have gotten it wrong now. All our people back home are in jeopardy. We are in jeopardy because it

is wrong, because we are not doing it right. He has asked us to fix it. It is the most solemn obligation we have under our oath of the Constitution to do it right. And to say that we are going to do it under some suspension and don't worry about what it says violates that oath.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you how disappointed I am in my friends. And I have the greatest respect for my good friend from Florida and the gentlewoman from California. We have worked so well together on so many issues that, I think, have made a difference in a positive way for national security for this country. I believe that with every fiber of my being.

I almost feel bad for you that you would be sent here on behalf of the Speaker to try to defend this today. I feel bad for you because I know you both. And I know that is not the direction you would have taken, had it been your decision.

Efforts to change this are not new. The level of concern by so many of us who sit in those classified hearings in our Intelligence Committee is not new. Last year, my colleague from New Mexico introduced a bill that would have fixed this problem last year, and it was stopped. Earlier this year, earlier this year, it was introduced again to fix this problem, and it was denied by the majority.

I have to tell you, when I was a young FBI agent, sometimes you would look up at the policies kind of flowing down at you. We were working awfully hard to develop probable cause to get wiretaps, which was the right thing to do. It was a difficult process with lots of vetting, lots of hours, lots of source development and source vetting, lots of surveillance, and putting it all together to make something like that work so that it could rise to the standard to go after a United States citizen and their communication. It is a pretty high standard. I argue, as somebody who did it for a living, it should be.

But what we have been arguing for for the last year is to say, listen, we should not give those rights to terrorists overseas who are conducting terrorist activities to target Americans or our allies, including the United States soldiers. They do not deserve the rights of a U.S. citizen.

This was an easy fix. It said, let's be technology neutral. Times have changed since the 1970s when FISA was written. Technology has changed. People communicate completely differently.

What we said last year is let us change to keep up, because today we have asked soldiers to stand in harm's way. And the thing that I know that my colleagues understand, both Democrats and Republicans, is because this House has failed to act, they have stood in harm's way without all the in-

formation that they need and deserve to be safe, successful, and come home to their families.

This gamesmanship is dangerous, and I mean dangerous. My colleagues understand those classified cases that we talk about, that we know because this has not been fixed. Lives may have been lost because of it. Lives may have been lost because of it. We can change that today.

I just got a copy of this. As I go through it, just in my brief cursory look at it, this is not what we have been negotiating. There have been no new demands. This is so easy. This is so simple. It can be about a 2-page bill, and we can begin to protect Americans in harm's way, including the homeland, but, most importantly, the soldiers who are overseas who deserve that protection. And just because we shout and we yell, no, no, no, we believe that terrorists should not have to have a warrant overseas as well doesn't make it so, and you know that. That has been the stumbling block. The Court has said it. The intelligence community has said it. The DNI has said it. We have said it.

I am going to beg all of you, please, for the lives of the soldiers who are at risk today, for the homeland, this is not the place for gamesmanship. This is not the place that we argue about a bill that we have not even seen. This is the time that we should come together. This is the time that this bill should be out and done, negotiated, and free from all of the gamesmanship we see today.

When I go home and look at those families of those folks who have loved ones overseas, I want to be able to tell them we have done everything that we can do to make them safe. When somebody kisses their young child and puts them on the bus, I want to be able to look that family in the eye and say we are doing everything to make sure we get all the information of what the terrorists are up to to protect the United States of America.

We all know in good conscience we can't say that today, and we have not been able to say that for months in good conscience.

This is our chance to come together as people I know and I respect, who know the dangers of the gamesmanship on an issue this important. Let's stop it. Let's go back. Go back and tell the Speaker, I am sorry, we are not playing this game.

People's lives are at stake. We can do this. We can do this together. I know that is why I was sent here. I know that is what you believe in your hearts. Let's do this together. Let's put this stuff aside and fix this problem so that we can begin to listen to the conversations of terrorists we know are planning attacks against our allies and the United States of America.

I strongly urge the reconsideration of this. Let's do this. We can do this. We should do this. We ought to do it. And shame on us if we can't do it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume, and I will yield to the distinguished Chair of the Intelligence Committee in just a moment.

But I would like to respond to my good friend from Michigan, and he is my good friend, and he was correct in asserting that he, Ms. HARMAN, myself, all of the members of the Intelligence Committee that are here, have worked actively for more than a year on this. What he was incorrect about was whether or not there were ongoing negotiations.

I would urge him to know that with staff, the distinguished Chair of the Intelligence Committee and many other Members, and Ms. HARMAN from her Chair on Homeland Security, and countless others in the minority as well, have worked day and night with the administration to produce a bipartisan, bicameral proposal.

Mr. ROGERS just said last night no other negotiations were going on. Last night the DNI asked us to make three changes, three, to our proposal. We made all three changes. They are in this bill. But the administration still rejected our proposal, and they gave us a moving target.

We gave the administration what it told us it needed to protect America. They still said no.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the distinguished chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a minute to respond to my colleague from Michigan.

This is a serious issue. We have worked hard for the last 2 weeks in particular, in addition to the hearings that we have had, with the commitment that we are going to do an overall fix of FISA in the fall. But we wanted to give the administration the three things, as my colleague from Florida just mentioned, that they could work with so they could keep this country safe in this urgent hour. Those three things we gave them. Then the goalposts were moved and we were told that there would be additional issues. That has been our experience.

The difference here is very simple, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle for 6 years have been only too happy to oblige the administration on whatever they need. You got a bill? Let's rubber-stamp it. Need a supplemental? Let's rubber-stamp it.

Well, do you know what? Those days are over. Since we took control of the Congress, we are doing the oversight that was neglected. We are now being part of the process to make sure that not only do we have the tools to keep this country safe, but that we protect the American people and their civil rights. That is the basic fundamental difference.

This bill here does the three things that the DNI asked us to do and that the administration wanted us to do. It is not the all-encompassing changes that FISA needs, but we are committed to doing that in the fall.

□ 1400

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House recess until we get feedback from the Director of National Intelligence that he has seen this legislation and he agrees that it will fix the intelligence gap that is threatening the United States.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. SESSIONS (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, please be advised voting is not available to Members at this time and the Republican minority would request that we have the ability to vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The voting machine is operational, but there is an issue with the display, the Chair has been informed, and the Clerk is working on it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. It is my understanding that the Speaker may, has options available to him or her as it relates to electronic voting to where the Speaker could make a decision to have the Clerk record those votes manually by rollcall.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The voting system is operational and the vote is ongoing.

Mr. SESSIONS. Continuing my request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman will suspend. The Chair will try to ensure that Members know of time remaining and will have an opportunity to cast their votes, and the Chair will announce the vote a number of times to allow Members to change their vote.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, how am I recorded?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman will consult with the Clerk, they will tell you how you have voted.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady from Colorado.

Ms. DEGETTE. Parliamentary inquiry. To speed this process, Mr. Speaker, are the computers throughout

the Chamber on both sides working so Members could check the computers to see how their votes are recorded and how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would recommend that Members check their votes at the voting machine or at the rostrum to ensure that his or her vote is recorded.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry. On this side of the aisle the computers in the Chamber seem to be working, and I am wondering if they are working on the other side of the aisle?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is not a proper parliamentary inquiry. The voting will continue.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, point of parliamentary inquiry. When the electronic voting system is inoperable or is not used, the Speaker or Chairman may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call as provided in clause 3 or 4; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The voting system is working. The problem is with the display. The House will continue voting electronically.

Mr. SESSIONS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, would it be correct to say that normal procedures of this House are not currently, as it relates to voting, in place and available to Members at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. There is a problem with the display. The Clerk is working to address that problem. But the voting machines are working, and the tally is being held.

Mr. SESSIONS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the question is whether the Speaker or the Speaker's designee has the authority to make a decision to enact what we would call to conduct or direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call as provided in clause 3 or 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has alternatives; and when it is proper to use them, the Chair may do so.

Mr. SESSIONS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, could you please outline those options that are available to you and your thinking? Because we are in a circumstance where we believe an inoperable voting system is presently being—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One is a manual call, one is a vote by tellers, and one is to continue with the elec-

tronic vote. And the Chair has chosen to so continue.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. How much time is remaining on the vote that we can't see displayed any place that we are supposed to be casting?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are 5 minutes and 30 seconds remaining on this vote, and the Chair will accommodate Members on this vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has come to the Chair and reminded the Chair that Members may verify their vote at any one of the various voting stations. The engineers are working on the malfunction on the display, and we will continue electronic voting.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair will remind Members that the House is voting on a motion to adjourn. Members may verify their votes at any of the various voting stations. The engineers are still working on the malfunction of the display.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair will remind the Members that they may use the voting machines, and Members may verify their vote at any one of the various voting stations. The House is presently voting on a motion to adjourn.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. SESSIONS (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Members having an inability to know what time remains, can the Chair please advise us what time remains in this vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will make every effort to ensure that the Members will have every opportunity to vote, regardless of the time elapsed.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry. Mr. Speaker, can you please advise me how much time remains in this vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman repeat his inquiry?

Mr. SESSIONS. I will, Mr. Speaker. Can you please tell me how much time remains in this vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has the discretion to close the vote when all Members have voted.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the circumstances that we are under, can you please advise me how much longer you will hold the vote open for Members?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will use his discretion to provide for Members who have not voted or

who would like to change their vote when in the Chair's discretion every Member has voted who wants to vote. The Chair will then tally the votes and announce the vote.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to propound a parliamentary inquiry. I'd like to inquire of the Chair, by what means will the Chair know what the totals are on the vote that we're engaged in at this moment?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will use the standard method of verification.

Mr. DREIER. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. What is the traditional method of verification? For me, it is to look at the board up there and see how my State delegation had voted.

Mr. Speaker, I was just asking the Chair to enlighten us as to exactly how it is through this traditional procedure of determining what the vote is that you're going to report to us. I usually look up here on the wall and see how my State delegation is voting, how some of my colleagues are voting. We don't have the ability to do that. I'm just wondering exactly how it is that the Chair will be able to make this announcement to us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members can verify their votes at any one of the various voting stations. Engineers are working on the problem.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker. Is it not true, Mr. Speaker, that there are computer terminals on the majority side, the minority side and at the Speaker's desk; and, further, Mr. Speaker, is it not true that the Clerk of the House has the responsibility, when there are engineering problems, to fix the engineering problems?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct and the engineers are working on the problem.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend for a moment before being recognized.

The House is voting on a motion to adjourn. Members may verify their votes at any of the various voting stations.

Ms. FOXX. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, can the Chair tell us how much time has elapsed since you began this voting process?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Approximately 20 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, can you please at this time tell us the vote total?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide the total until every Member has an opportunity to change their vote, or to vote.

The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it's obvious we have a technical problem. I know that comes as a great shock and surprise to you. I've talked to the gentleman who's in charge of fixing mechanical problems. He tells me that we need to take the system down for a period of time in order to fix it. He has said he needs approximately 30 minutes to do that with no votes. We are in the process of a vote.

What the Speaker pro tempore has said, I don't know what the vote is. I don't know whether it's coming up on the computers. I do know in my office there was no time coming up on the computer. So Members do not know how much time they have left.

PERMISSION TO VACATE VOTE ON MOTION TO
ADJOURN

Mr. HOYER (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we vacate this vote, and as soon as the machine is fixed, that we return to cast this vote and then proceed with the proceedings.

Mr. DREIER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object simply to inquire of the distinguished majority leader, does he intend to recess the House for this 30-minute time? I wonder if he might enlighten us as to what the plan would be. I'm happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. For all of us who think that dastardly things are going on, I guess we're all trying to figure out who's doing the dastardly things. In any event, in answer to your question, it would be my intention to rise while the machines are being fixed because we cannot proceed, nor should we proceed, without having Members know how much time they have left to vote.

I want you to be very nice to that gentleman. He represents my daughter and my son-in-law. So be careful and very gentle with him.

Mr. DREIER. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inquire further of the majority leader. We're in a very awkward situation here. We don't know what the vote total is at this juncture. The House may have just voted to adjourn so far as we know. So the gentleman has just come to the conclusion that he's going to propose that we recess, or he said rise. We're already in the House. We're not in the Committee of the Whole. I'd be happy to yield to my friend if he would like to respond.

Mr. HOYER. I'm sorry, I was getting some technical information about where we are. The computer print-out—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend.

Mr. DREIER. Now I have the word.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. DREIER. Continuing to reserve the right to object, Mr. Speaker, and I do so to say that under normal circumstances this would be somewhat entertaining and funny, but this is a very, very serious matter, and the request that has just been made by the gentleman is one which we want to take seriously. We don't know what the outcome of the vote that is being considered at this moment is. Many of us don't know how our colleagues are recorded, and I will tell you this is a very, very difficult time for this institution. And I'm happy to yield to my friend if he would like to respond to the challenging circumstance that we find ourselves in.

Mr. HOYER. I understand the gentleman's proposition.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to further yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I have been handed a printout. Now, I don't know where the printout comes from, so I am not going to read it, other than I can tell you that I don't know whether you have it on your computer.

May I ask the gentleman whether the computer over there has the totals?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerks are still tallying votes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry, you said the Clerk is still in the process of tallying the votes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Some of the ballot cards cast in the well are still being counted. The cards that have been submitted are still being counted.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, how long has this vote been open?

I am happy to yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. I asked the gentleman a question because I think it is pertinent to whether or not the computers to which the Speaker has referred are working throughout the floor.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to yield to the majority leader, I would like to inquire, is the vote still open? If Members want to change their votes now, they can continue to do that? If a Member were to walk into the Chamber now, they could still vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The vote is still open.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to further yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. My question to him is, because I don't know because I am not over there, whether or not your computer, where you are standing, is reflecting for you a vote total.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time under parliamentary procedure.

The answer to that is we don't know.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, might I continue my parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry, in response to the question from the distinguished majority leader, I will say that we have no way of verifying what it is that is coming out of this computer here.

It is not operating the way it normally does. If Members are able to still vote, we can see this screen here, but it is not operating. I don't normally operate this thing, but our crack team here has told me that it is not operating the way that it normally does.

I am happy to respond to any further questions.

Mr. HOYER. Under those circumstances, under those circumstances, the reason I made the offer to vacate, the request for the unanimous consent to vacate, is because you can't verify it, and I have a list here in front of me. It may or may not be accurate.

The machines are obviously not functioning as we would want them to do, so my suggestion is the way to fix that is to vacate the vote. The machines have to be taken down.

Mr. DREIER. I yield to my friend from Dallas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in response to the majority leader, I would go to the rules of the House. I would quote them on page 32 of the rules of the House: When the electronic voting system is inoperable, or is not used, and I believe it is at this time inoperable and has been for the past 40 minutes or so, the Speaker or the chairman may direct the Clerk to conduct a record vote or quorum call as provided in clause 3 or 4.

I wonder why the gentleman would not suggest we follow the rules of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. Further reserving the right to object, I am happy to yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman read the rule correctly. It said "may." The simpler way to do it and the confidence-building way to do that seems to me, because we want to use these machines, is to allow the technicians the opportunity to fix the machines. That is our desire.

Now, we understand that if you don't want to proceed with the business of the House, either the DOD appropriation bill, the FISA bill or the bill trying to give emergency relief to those in Minneapolis, the bridge, we may not want to proceed.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if I could reclaim my time under my reservation, reserving the right to object, I do want to say that we are very committed to ensuring that we get the resources nec-

essary to those who have been victimized in Minnesota. That's a very high priority.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object. The gentleman is not stating a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen, if the gentleman will yield, we need to calm down. We have a heavy responsibility. We have great differences. I understand that everybody's sensibilities are taut. I predicted that last Tuesday, that that would be the case. I regret it.

I regret what happened last night which has generated this. But we do have business to do. All I am saying is I don't want to have a question about this vote, because we cannot assure ourselves, as the gentleman said, that the list I have in front of me or the screen that you have projected to you is projecting the accurate information.

Therefore, I suggest, given that, that we give the technicians an opportunity to facilitate fixing it. I think that's a reasonable request.

I would hope that everybody in the House would think it's a reasonable request.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve the right to object, I yield to my friend from Dallas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make sure the majority leader understands that, for the last months, this majority that is on this side of the aisle has routinely asked and spoken with the majority about the way we would like to see things happen.

Regularly, we are told that it will be done the way you choose to do it. You are attempting now to make a decision about what you would like to do.

Mr. HOYER. I am trying to make a decision collegially with 435 by unanimous consent.

Mr. SESSIONS. It is our request to the majority leader that we follow the rules of the House at this time, and this minority is making that request at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members the voting is still open. Members may verify their votes at any one of the voting stations.

Have all Members voted? Does any Member wish to change their vote?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve the right to object, I know we have a unanimous consent pending from the distinguished majority leader.

Under my reservation, I would be happy to further yield to the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. In either event, whether we shut the machine down now and allow them time to fix this by rising or going to the suggestion of the gentleman from Texas as to the rules, in either event you have to vacate this vote.

Frankly, the Speaker can call this vote. I presume, I don't know, because I haven't asked, that the result I have in front of me is the same the Speaker has.

I have no problem with doing that vote, frankly. But I think it would raise in the minds of every Member here, is that the accurate count? I think in light of that, I would prefer not to do that. So I am trying to accommodate the confidence of the Members by vacating this vote.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time under my reservation, I would simply ask the majority leader, since we have been talking about DOD, FISA, the tragedy in Minnesota and a wide range of things since the gentleman propounded his unanimous consent request, I wonder if he might repeat it again so that Members might hear what that request consists of.

Mr. HOYER. In consultation with the technical people that we have, who are responsible for ensuring the proper operations of our computer system, which advises all of us on time and computes the votes, that they have to take the system down for approximately a half an hour, maybe slightly longer, for the purpose of fixing the machine. I think the machine needs to be fixed.

So in order to accommodate that objective, I am suggesting that we vacate this vote, allow them to do that, come back and then revote this particular vote and then move on to wherever we are going to move on.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve the right to object, I would ask my friend if, in fact, if, in fact, we were to proceed with vacating this vote, taking this 30-minute period of time, if we reconvene after that, may I ask the distinguished majority leader, in what order and what is it that we will be considering? Will we be considering the FISA issue, or will we be considering the issue that we are all very committed to, and that is ensuring that the bridge in the Twin Cities is addressed?

I see Mrs. BACHMANN here. I know there are other Members of the delegation who want to do that. I just would like to inquire of the majority leader how we would proceed.

Mr. HOYER. I will tell my friend, my first order of business, as I propounded in my unanimous consent request, will be this vote. This is the matter of business before the House, the motion to adjourn.

We cannot resolve it with, I think, the full confidence of the Members. So that would be the first order of the business. We will then proceed with the business as we had been doing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the gentleman from California that there is still debate to be continued on the rule.

Mr. DREIER. Yes, I am aware of that.

Continuing to reserve the right to object, I would like to ask the majority leader, assuming we do reconvene and assuming that the House does not adjourn, what does he anticipate the schedule would be? Are we going to address the priority of assuring that the

resources get to the State of Minnesota? Or are we going to move directly to the FISA issue? In what order will we be considering these issues, Mr. Leader?

Mr. HOYER. We are going to consider both of those matters.

Mr. DREIER. May I ask in what order we would be addressing those?

Mr. HOYER. The order we will consider those is we will consider Minnesota first. We believe that is the least contentious of the items, and we think, therefore, it would be good to get the least contentious item out of the way first.

Everybody in this body has great empathy for the State of Minnesota, but, more particularly, the people who lost their lives in that tragic collapse of the bridge. We will go to that first.

Of course, we have the rules to complete, but we will then, in terms of business, go to FISA, as we have expressed.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I will not object. I withdraw my reservation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I just want to offer a suggestion. There is a number on the computer on the minority side, and there is a number on the computer on the majority side. Why don't we compare numbers? If they are the same, accept the vote. We know that we are going to get beat. Let's accept this vote.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. BARTON, I have been waiting at least 15 minutes for you to be here.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I would recommend that our distinguished minority leader show our number to the majority leader's number, and if they are the same, accept it as this vote. That's my suggestion. I think we could at least expedite this one vote.

I yield to my distinguished minority leader (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

There is a motion that has been made by the majority leader to vacate the vote. I think we should proceed with a unanimous consent and recess to fix the machine and come back and vote when the machine is ready for us to vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the vote is vacated.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the pending motion to adjourn is considered withdrawn without prejudice.

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2863. An act to authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

H.R. 2952. An act to authorize the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 976. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 775. An act to establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States.

S. 1983. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to renew and amend the provisions for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 194 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy:

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), from the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

The Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), At Large.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2272) "An Act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There was no objection.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 4 p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise to continue debate on H. Res. 600.

I would like to inquire as to how much time remains on both sides, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 12½ minutes, and the gentleman from Florida has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the Republican minority is very aware, as a result of Speaker PELOS's Web site that is called Congress Working for All Americans, WWW.SPEAKER.GOV, that the Speaker has announced very publicly her intention to follow regular order for legislation. I would like to quote from that Web site at this time: "Members should have at least 24 hours to examine a bill in a conference report text prior to floor consideration."

Madam Speaker, just minutes ago, we began the debate on this rule. Just before we began debate, as we began debate on this rule just hours ago probably, but as we began, we received the text of one of the most important bills to come to the floor of the House of Representatives at the time we began debate on the rule, which seems absolutely, just completely backwards from what the Speaker describes on her Web site.

Number two, the Suspension Calendar should be restricted to non-controversial legislation.

Madam Speaker, here we are today on the floor of the House of Representatives not only with a bill that we had not seen the text to until we began debate but, secondly, the Suspension Calendar has very controversial legislation that we are handling today.

I would have to make a motion if we were in Rules Committee, and we did, we tried, that we should receive all of these bills. And, of course, we have not.

Very interestingly, part of the debate about this bill that we are on with foreign intelligence surveillance activities, there was a discussion just days ago in the Rules Committee whereby a Member of the Democrat majority, as part of the conversation, asked a Republican that was there: "So you're asking to basically reduce probable cause and just basically throw probable cause out as a reason that we are trying to change the FISA rules?"

The Republican answered: "You shouldn't be having to get a warrant to listen into phone conversations between someone from Saudi Arabia calling somebody in Sudan, when neither one of them are Americans." The response from the Democrat was: "Well, I don't know if I agree with that."

Madam Speaker, we are here on the floor today to also talk about the directions we are headed, the directions we are headed for protecting this country. And today, we are on the floor of the House of Representatives with the language only just given to us. On top

of that, it is one of the most controversial items that has come to the floor of the House of Representatives in the years that I have been here.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House recess until we get a response from the Director of National Intelligence as to their feedback on the FISA bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 180, nays 237, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 817]

YEAS—180

Aderholt	Drake	Lewis (CA)
Akin	Duncan	Lewis (KY)
Alexander	Ehlers	Linder
Bachmann	Emerson	Lucas
Bachus	English (PA)	Lungren, Daniel
Baker	Everett	E.
Barrett (SC)	Fallin	Mack
Bartlett (MD)	Feeney	Manzullo
Barton (TX)	Ferguson	Marchant
Biggert	Flake	McCarthy (CA)
Bilbray	Forbes	McCaul (TX)
Billirakis	Fortenberry	McHenry
Bishop (UT)	Fossella	McHugh
Blackburn	Fox	McKeon
Blunt	Franks (AZ)	McMorris
Boehner	Frelinghuysen	Rodgers
Bonner	Garrett (NJ)	Mica
Bono	Gillmor	Miller (FL)
Boozman	Gingrey	Miller (MI)
Boustany	Gohmert	Miller, Gary
Brady (TX)	Goode	Murphy, Tim
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	Musgrave
Brown (SC)	Granger	Myrick
Buchanan	Graves	Nadler
Burgess	Hastert	Neugebauer
Burton (IN)	Hastings (WA)	Nunes
Buyer	Heller	Pearce
Camp (MI)	Hensarling	Pence
Campbell (CA)	Herger	Peterson (PA)
Cannon	Hobson	Petri
Cantor	Hoekstra	Pickering
Capito	Hulshof	Pitts
Carter	Hunter	Platts
Castle	Inglis (SC)	Poe
Chabot	Issa	Porter
Coble	Jindal	Price (GA)
Cole (OK)	Jordan	Pryce (OH)
Conaway	Keller	Putnam
Cubin	King (IA)	Radanovich
Culberson	King (NY)	Regula
Davis (KY)	Kline (MN)	Rehberg
Davis, David	Knollenberg	Reichert
Davis, Tom	Kuhl (NY)	Renzi
Deal (GA)	LaHood	Reynolds
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Doolittle	LaTourette	Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher	Simpson
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (NE)
Roskam	Smith (NJ)
Royce	Smith (TX)
Ryan (WI)	Souder
Sali	Stearns
Saxton	Sullivan
Schmidt	Tancredo
Sensenbrenner	Terry
Sessions	Thornberry
Shadegg	Tiahrt
Shays	Tiberi
Shimkus	Turner
Shuster	Upton

NAYS—237

Abercrombie	Green, Gene
Ackerman	Grijalva
Allen	Gutierrez
Altmire	Hall (NY)
Andrews	Hall (TX)
Arcuri	Hare
Baca	Harman
Baird	Hastings (FL)
Baldwin	Herseth Sandlin
Barrow	Higgins
Bean	Hill
Becerra	Hinchey
Berkley	Hinojosa
Berman	Hirono
Berry	Hodes
Bishop (GA)	Holden
Bishop (NY)	Holt
Blumenauer	Honda
Boren	Hooley
Boswell	Hoyer
Boucher	Insee
Boyd (FL)	Israel
Boyd (KS)	Jackson (IL)
Brady (PA)	Jackson-Lee
Bralley (IA)	(TX)
Brown, Corrine	Jefferson
Butterfield	Johnson (GA)
Capps	Johnson (IL)
Capuano	Johnson, E. B.
Cardoza	Jones (NC)
Carmahan	Jones (OH)
Carney	Kagen
Carson	Kanjorski
Castor	Kaptur
Chandler	Kennedy
Clay	Kildee
Cleaver	Kilpatrick
Clyburn	Kind
Cohen	Kingston
Conyers	Kirk
Cooper	Klein (FL)
Costa	Kucinich
Costello	Lampson
Courtney	Langevin
Cramer	Lantos
Crowley	Larsen (WA)
Cuellar	Larson (CT)
Cummings	Lee
Davis (AL)	Levin
Davis (CA)	Lewis (GA)
Davis (IL)	Lipinski
Davis, Lincoln	LoBiondo
DeFazio	Loebsack
Delahunt	Loftgren, Zoe
DeLauro	Lowe
Dent	Mahoney (FL)
Dingell	Maloney (NY)
Doggett	Marshall
Donnelly	Matheson
Doyle	Matsui
Dreier	McCarthy (NY)
Edwards	McCollum (MN)
Ellison	McCotter
Elsworth	McDermott
Emanuel	McGovern
Engel	McIntyre
Eshoo	McNerney
Etheridge	McNulty
Farr	Meek (FL)
Fattah	Meeks (NY)
Finer	Melancon
Frank (MA)	Michaud
Galleghy	Miller (NC)
Gerlach	Miller, George
Giffords	Mitchell
Gilchrist	Mollohan
Gillibrand	Moore (KS)
Gonzalez	Moore (WI)
Gordon	Moran (KS)
Green, Al	Murphy (CT)

Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Brown-Waite,	DeGette	McCrery
Ginny	Dicks	Moran (VA)
Calvert	Hayes	Paul
Clarke	Johnson, Sam	Wexler
Crenshaw	Lynch	
Davis, Jo Ann	Markey	

□ 1628

Mr. GERLACH and Mr. DENT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky and Mr. PICKERING changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Land of Enchantment, Mrs. WILSON.

□ 1630

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, when we adjourned we were discussing a rule to make in order two bills, one relating to Minnesota and the other relating to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The rule does not specify a particular bill number, but my colleague from Florida has made us aware of a bill that was introduced. The bill that the leadership currently intends to bring to the floor is H.R. 3356. I would tell my colleagues that the Director of National Intelligence had not seen this piece of legislation when it was brought to the floor today.

In the intervening time that we've been waiting for the vote tally system to become operational again, they've been able to at least initially take a look at it, and we expect a formal statement from our intelligence community shortly, but I have also taken a look at this bill. If we're trying to fix the intelligence gap, this will not do it. In fact, this will make the intelligence gap wider than it currently is, and I want to explain to my colleagues why.

First, and most importantly, this legislation would continue to require a warrant for the collection of foreign intelligence involving foreign persons in a foreign country. When the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was passed in 1978, the intention was to protect the civil liberties of Americans, and that is what the law should continue to do. Because of changes in technology, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court is now being completely backlogged with requests for warrants that they never used to have to see because telecommunications have changed.

We need to go back to what the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was intended to do, which is to protect the civil liberties of Americans and allow us to rapidly collect foreign intelligence on foreign persons in foreign countries without first having to go to

court and get a warrant. That is not too much to ask, and the Director of National Intelligence has warned all of us that there are things we should be getting that we are not listening to.

The leadership does not have to bring, under this rule, this particular piece of legislation to the floor, and as I understand it, negotiations are continuing and are being much more fruitful with our colleagues in the other body. But we must, before we leave here for August break, fix this problem. It's a problem we've known about for some time and tried to work on and quietly fix. I would much prefer that these things be done quietly, but when it was clear that the law was not working, that it was not protecting Americans, and that we were not moving quickly to fix and close this intelligence gap, I decided that I needed to take action and with my colleagues push more publicly to get this fixed.

I believe it is possible here today in this House to find the consensus and something that works for our intelligence agencies to be able to listen to foreigners in foreign countries, who are using the communications systems America has built, to plot, to plan, to kill us.

I would encourage the leadership on the other side of the aisle to work constructively with the Director of National Intelligence, call him and get him up here and work this out so that we can do the right thing for our country.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would remind everyone here that this rule is to make in order a suspension day. This particular measure is not about FISA.

Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased to yield to a woman that I've worked with on the Intelligence Committee when she was the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee and that I worked on that committee with for 6 years. In this body is the distinguished chairman of the Intelligence Committee; in addition, another of my colleagues, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HOLT. All of us serve on that same committee that Mrs. WILSON serves on, and I rather suspect that she knows that we know that there is no prohibition that she has suggested here.

I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN), the former ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee and the now-Chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment of the Homeland Security Committee.

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and commend him again for his service both on the Rules Committee and ongoing on the Intelligence Committee.

It is reassuring that the debate has quieted. As many people have said on both sides, this is a very serious subject. While we were having our break because of a computer glitch, I had the

chance to sit on the floor and talk to many colleagues on a bipartisan basis about how this Member who has studied this issue for years sees it.

I point out to colleagues that the bill that has been distributed, H.R. 3356, says on page 2, section 105(a), "a court order is not required for the acquisition of the contents of any communication between persons that are not located within the United States."

It is the intention of this bill, which will be made in order on the suspension calendar under the rule, to exempt foreign-to-foreign communications, and it is the intention, I believe, of every single person sitting here, several hundred of us, to exempt foreign-to-foreign communications from the warrant requirements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

What is really at issue, and I hope this will clarify the subject for some who are still wondering what it is, is whether or not we will have a court approve the parameters, the framework of this entire program, or whether we will leave the dimensions of the program and the activities under the program to the Attorney General or perhaps the Attorney General working with the Director of National Intelligence.

Some of us know the details of this program. It's a valuable program. It's very complicated, and it has many different parts. I, for one, thought that it was being regulated under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act until I learned recently that the administration had chosen not to follow FISA. I think, and I would hope many on the other side would think, that we must have a legal framework around this program. No more blank checks for this Attorney General or for any future Attorneys General.

I urge approval of this rule.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 5½ minutes. The gentleman from Florida has 8 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, if I could inquire of the gentleman from Florida if he would like to run down some of his time at this time or if he's through with his speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Excuse me.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would like to inquire of the gentleman if he would like to get the time even and to run down with another speaker. We're a little bit ahead.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

As our previous colleague was talking, I think she laid it out pretty well.

Are we going to involve the courts in reviewing our foreign intelligence activities? If you take a look at the bill that is out here, it appears that the court is going to be involved in reviewing our intelligence community activities overseas. This becomes the Terrorist Protection Act, not a surveillance program.

Do we want a court reviewing our tactics and strategies for foreign intelligence or foreign individuals in foreign locations and lay it out the way that this bill wants? This is not about theory. This is about protecting the homeland, and it is about protecting our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Does it make sense that when a commander in the field gets the information or gets leads that may protect their soldiers that, rather than following the lead immediately, the first thing that they do is bring in the lawyers to make sure that they get that information in an appropriate and legal way on the battlefield? Is that giving our troops the tools that they need to keep themselves safe and secure and defeat the enemy?

Does it make sense when our intelligence frontline folks, whether it's in northern Africa or in the Middle East, get a lead as to individuals who may be targeting the United States, that the first thing that they need to do is get the lawyers involved to make sure that foreign intelligence is collected in an appropriate way, rather than focusing on what needs to keep us safe?

After 9/11, we spent a lot of time working together to put together an intelligence community that would, in the future, be able to connect the dots. With this bill that it looks like we're going to consider this afternoon, we won't have to worry about connecting the dots anymore because we will put the barriers in place that means that they will not even be able to collect the dots. But if you believe that this is a bumper sticker war and this is a bumper sticker threat that we face today, this bill is for you.

Take a look at the statement by the Director of National Intelligence. The Director of National Intelligence today is the same individual that served many years under President Bill Clinton as the Director of the National Security Agency. Here's what he has to say about this bill:

I have reviewed the proposal that the House of Representatives is expected to vote on this afternoon to modify the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The House proposal is unacceptable. I strongly oppose it. The House proposal would not allow me to carry out my responsibility to provide warning and to protect the Nation, especially in our heightened threat environment. I urge Members of Congress to support the legislation I provided last evening to modify FISA to equip our intelligence community with the tools we need to protect our Nation.

This is an individual who has a 30-year career in this business. He served President Clinton; he's serving President Bush, but most importantly, it is

a career that is distinguished because he has served the country and has kept us safe. Let's respect his opinion. Let's give him the tools that will keep us safe, keep us safe in the homeland and keep our troops safe on the battlefield.

□ 1645

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to be astounded, particularly at the remarks of the distinguished ranking member of the committee that I serve on with him, that he would have us believe something different than what his proposal allows for. His proposal, or the proposal of the minority, would allow the Attorney General to do this, not lawyers.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the point person for every person in the House of Representatives on intelligence, the distinguished Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence, Mr. SILVESTRE REYES.

Mr. REYES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to start off by correcting the distinguished gentleman from Michigan. Director McConnell didn't have 30 years, doesn't have 30 years experience in working in intelligence, he has 40 years experience working in intelligence. The reason I know that is for the last couple of weeks we have been working, trying to work together in a bipartisan way with the Senate and the House on this bill that we have here today.

Director McConnell asked us to do three things yesterday, and he sought the very bill that he is rejecting today, three things, and he could support our bill. Those three things were: expand it from relating to terrorism to relating to foreign intelligence; eliminate the requirement that the FISA Court adjudicate how recurring communications into the U.S. from foreign targets would be handled; and, third, allow for foreign targets to be added for the basket warrant after the warrant was approved. We did each and every one of these things.

They say, okay, we got a deal. No. After getting on the phone with the White House and the Republican leadership, he said, oh, I have a few other things that we need.

Well, you know, when we talk about the security of this country, when we talk about a serious issue like giving our intelligence professionals the tools that they need to keep us safe, it is serious business.

Today, we have to decide for ourselves do we want, on a temporary basis for 120 days, to give the Director the tools that he said he needed, the three things that he said he needed included in our bill to keep us safe while we work on the bigger issue, the bigger fix of FISA, or if you vote against this bill, do you make it a political issue?

The choice is simple. Are you interested in giving him the tools that are needed and necessary to keep us safe, or do you want it as a political issue?

That's the question before us this afternoon.

The Director yesterday, in answering to the majority leader's inquiry, said this bill, this bill that we have before us today, significantly enhances America's security, the very bill that, according to the ranking member, he is rejecting.

My colleague, the gentlelady from New Mexico, says we didn't show the DNI the bill. We sent that to him. His lawyers dissected it. We were in the same room; and on one occasion, at least one occasion, Mr. HOEKSTRA was with us as we were talking about the issues, along with the Senate, didn't show it to him.

He had a chance to look at it, digest it and make recommendations, like the three issues that I just read, that he agreed to yesterday. Those are important things. Facts matter. The truth matters. Not about obfuscating the truth, it's about doing what's right for our country.

This is the right thing to do, to keep us safe for the next 120 days, so we continue to do the work of this committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is about doing the right thing. In doing so, I would like to make sure that we get it right this time.

Despite what someone may have been told, I have a statement by the Director of National Intelligence that was issued this afternoon at 4:30. The gentleman says, "I have reviewed the proposal that the House of Representatives is expected to vote on this afternoon to modify the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The House proposal is unacceptable, and I strongly oppose it.

"The House proposal would not allow me to carry out my responsibility to provide warning and to protect the Nation, especially in our heightened threat environment.

"I urge Members of Congress to support the legislation I provided last evening to modify FISA and to equip our intelligence community with the tools we need to protect our Nation."

They cannot have it both ways. They cannot have it where they say it's a complicated issue. Protecting this country should not be complicated when people who are trying to do the right thing are asking and showing people what to do.

The Republicans have made our choice known today, and that is we are going to stand behind the Director of National Intelligence.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Chairman, what the gentleman just read was ordered to the White House by the National Intelligence Director. The Republican logic allows that what was acceptable yesterday is not acceptable today.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Chairman. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Mexico will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Does the gentleman from Florida yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I do not.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment to the rule at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

Add at the end the following:

(3) A bill to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to briefly describe this amendment to House Resolution 600.

The amendment would add a third suspension measure to this resolution, a bill to provide assistance to Minnesota. This will allow the House to consider the Minnesota bridge disaster emergency relief legislation. I am sure that everyone here would urge that the reconstruction of the bridge that tragically collapsed on Wednesday be undertaken.

While the minority has been engaging in manufactured obstructionism, the House has been denied the opportunity to act on the priorities of the American people.

While the minority has been engaged in manufactured obstructionism, the House has enacted on legislation to require a comprehensive strategy to withdraw our troops from harm's way.

While the minority has been engaged in manufacturing obstructionism, the House has not been able to act on FISA reform.

Finally, while the minority has engaged in manufactured obstructionism, the House has not acted on providing emergency assistance to our fellow Americans who are grieving and suffering in Minnesota.

Manufactured obstructionism is what they are doing, and the American people will not stand for it.

By allowing this bill to come to the floor today, we can get this bill to the President's desk immediately. Whatever differences we have here today, this should be something we all can support.

I hope my colleagues will support the amendment and the rule.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the amendment and on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 196, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 818]

YEAS—228

Abercrombie Green, Gene Napolitano
Ackerman Grijalva Neal (MA)
Allen Gutierrez Oberstar
Altmire Hall (NY) Obey
Andrews Hare Olver
Arcuri Harman Ortiz
Baca Hastings (FL) Pallone
Baird Herseth Sandlin Pascrell
Baldwin Higgins Pastor
Barrow Hill Payne
Bean Hinchey Perlmutter
Becerra Hinojosa Peterson (MN)
Berkley Hirono Pomeroy
Berman Hodes Price (NC)
Berry Holden Rahall
Bishop (GA) Holt Ramstad
Bishop (NY) Honda Rangel
Blumenauer Hooley Reyes
Boren Hoyer Rodriguez
Boswell Inslee Ross
Boucher Israel Rothman
Boyd (FL) Jackson (IL) Roybal-Allard
Boyd (KS) Jackson-Lee Ruppersberger
Brady (PA) (TX) Rush
Braley (IA) Jefferson Ryan (OH)
Brown, Corrine Johnson (GA) Salazar
Butterfield Johnson, E. B. Sánchez, Linda
Capps Jones (OH) T.
Capuano Kagen Sanchez, Loretta
Cardoza Kanjorski Sarbanes
Carnahan Kaptur Schakowsky
Carney Kennedy Schiff
Carson Kildee Schwartz
Castor Kilpatrick Scott (GA)
Chandler Kind Scott (VA)
Clay Klein (FL) Serrano
Clever Kucinich Sestak
Clyburn Lampson Shea-Porter
Cohen Langevin Sherman
Conyers Lantos Shuler
Cooper Larsen (WA) Sires
Costa Larson (CT) Skelton
Costello Lee Slaughter
Courtney Levin Smith (WA)
Cramer Lewis (GA) Snyder
Crowley Lipinski Solis
Cuellar Loeb sack Space
Cummings Spratt
Davis (AL) Lowey Stark
Davis (CA) Lynch Stupak
Davis (IL) Mahoney (FL) Sutton
Davis, Lincoln Maloney (NY) Tanner
DeFazio Marshall Tauscher
DeGette Matheson Taylor
Delahunt Matsui Thompson (CA)
DeLauro McCarthy (NY) Thompson (MS)
Dicks McCollum (MN) Tierney
Dingell McDermott Towns
Doggett McGovern Udall (CO)
Donnelly McIntyre Udall (NM)
Doyle McNeerney Van Hollen
Edwards McNulty Velázquez
Ellison Meek (FL) Vislosky
Ellsworth Meeks (NY) Walz (MN)
Emanuel Melancon Wasserman
Engel Michaud Schultz
Eshoo Miller (NC) Watson
Etheridge Miller, George Watt
Farr Mitchell Waxman
Fattah Mollohan Weiner
Filner Moore (KS) Welch (VT)
Frank (MA) Moore (WI) Wexler
Giffords Moran (VA) Wilson (OH)
Gillibrand Murphy (CT) Woolsey
Gonzalez Murphy, Patrick Wu
Gordon Murtha Wynn
Green, Al Nadler Yarmuth

NAYS—196

Aderholt Baker Bilbray
Akin Barrett (SC) Bilirakis
Alexander Bartlett (MD) Bishop (UT)
Bachmann Barton (TX) Blackburn
Bachus Biggart Blunt

Boehner Graves Pickering
Bonner Hall (TX) Pitts
Bono Hastert Platts
Boozman Hastings (WA) Poe
Boustany Heller Porter
Brady (TX) Hensarling Price (GA)
Broun (GA) Herger Pryce (OH)
Brown (SC) Hobson Putnam
Brown-Waite, Hoekstra Radanovich
Ginny Hulshof Regula
Buchanan Hunter Rehberg
Burgess Inglis (SC) Reichert
Burton (IN) Issa Renzi
Buyer Jindal Reynolds
Calvert Johnson (IL) Rogers (AL)
Camp (MI) Jones (NC) Rogers (KY)
Campbell (CA) Jordan Rogers (MI)
Cannon Keller
Cantor King (IA) Rohrabacher
Capito King (NY) Ros-Lehtinen
Carter Kingston Roskam
Castle Kirk Royce
Chabot Kline (MN) Ryan (WI)
Coble Knollenberg Sali
Cole (OK) Kuhl (NY) Saxton
Conaway LaHood Schmidt
Cubin Lamborn Sensenbrenner
Culberson Latham Sessions
Davis (KY) LaTourette Shadegg
Davis, David Lewis (CA) Shays
Davis, Tom Lewis (KY) Shimkus
Deal (GA) Linder Shuster
Dent LoBiondo Simpson
Diaz-Balart, L. Lucas Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart, M. Lungren, Daniel Smith (NJ)
Doolittle E. Smith (TX)
Drake Mack Souder
Dreier Manullo Stearns
Duncan Marchant Sullivan
Ehlers McCarthy (CA) Tancredo
Emerson McCaul (TX) Terry
English (PA) McCotter Thornberry
Everett McCrery Tiahrt
Fallin McHenry Tiberi
Feeney McHugh Turner
Ferguson McKeon Upton
Flake McMorris Walberg
Forbes Rodgers Walden (OR)
Fortenberry Mica Walsh (NY)
Fossella Miller (FL) Wamp
Foxy Miller (MI) Waters
Franks (AZ) Miller, Gary Weldon (FL)
Frelinghuysen Moran (KS) Weller
Gallegly Murphy, Tim Westmoreland
Garrett (NJ) Musgrave Whitfield
Gerlach Myrick Wicker
Gilchrist Neugebauer Wilson (NM)
Gillmor Nunes Wilson (SC)
Gingrey Pearce Wolf
Goode Pence Young (AK)
Goodlatte Peterson (PA) Young (FL)
Granger Petri

NOT VOTING—8

Clarke Gohmert Markey
Crenshaw Hayes Paul
Davis, Jo Ann Johnson, Sam

□ 1714

Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. CANNON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 476

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H. Res. 476, a bill originally introduced by Representative MARTY MEEHAN of Massachusetts, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting

reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

□ 1715

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE I-35 BRIDGE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3311) to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3311

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a project for the repair and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35W bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of the project carried out under this section shall be 100 percent.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF EMERGENCY RELIEF LIMITATION.

The limitation contained in section 125(d)(1) of title 23, United States Code, of \$100,000,000 shall not apply to expenditures under section 125 of such title for the repair or reconstruction of the Interstate I-35W bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007.

SEC. 3. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSIT AND TRAVEL INFORMATION SERVICES.

Section 1112 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1171) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “There”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) MINNESOTA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary may—

“(A) use funds authorized to carry out the emergency relief program under section 125 of such title for the repair and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007; and

“(B) use not to exceed \$5,000,000 of the funds authorized to carry out the emergency relief program under section 125 of such title to reimburse the Minnesota State department of transportation for actual and necessary costs of maintenance and operation, less the amount of fares earned, for additional public transportation services and

traveler information services which are provided by the Metropolitan Council (of Minnesota) as a temporary substitute for highway traffic service following the collapse of the Interstate I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 1, 2007, until highway traffic service is restored on such bridge.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities reimbursed under this subsection shall be 100 percent.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 3311, and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, let me express my great appreciation to my colleagues in the Minnesota delegation for their cohesion and their support of legislative action to respond promptly to the needs of the people of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota. Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. ELLISON, in whose district this tragedy occurred, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETERSON have all united as one in support of the needs of the people and in common mourning for the tragedy that occurred.

All of us were struck deeply within our souls over this tragedy. Ms. MCCOLLUM's daughter, just miraculously almost, passed over this bridge shortly before it collapsed.

I want to express my great appreciation to the gentleman from Florida, the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. MICA, and his staff and to Mr. PETRI, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon, Chair of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, for the cooperation, for the splendid efforts made, and for the common cause in which we all persevered to bring this legislation promptly to the House, as we are doing today.

And, again, I'm very grateful to the gentleman from Florida for his participation.

Bridges are built to last, not forever, but for a very long time. The title, in Latin, of the leader of the Catholic church is Pontifex Maximus, the maximum bridge builder. And when that title was adopted, bridges were built to last. The one in Rome has lasted 2,000 years, a marble arch bridge.

But in our day and time, not much that we build lasts forever, and that is why we have a bridge inspection program. That is why we annually evaluate the condition, structure and struc-

tural integrity of bridges and their operational capacity and ability; and why, in the current law, SAFETEA-LU, with the help of then Chairman YOUNG, I included language to authorize the funding of a new technology comparable to the technology used in aviation to determine the structural integrity of aircraft wings, movable surfaces and fuselage, to find hairline cracks using technology that can discover microscopic cracks not visible to the naked eye and then measure their propagation and do the same with bridges.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation was offered the opportunity to use that technology, and I am disappointed that the State rejected the opportunity to use that technology to test the structural integrity of the bridge that collapsed.

In March of 2004, I sent Members of the House a letter and information providing data developed, at my request, by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics showing the number and location of structurally deficient bridges in the national highway system in each Member's congressional district.

Now, not many Members followed up on that, but I just happen to have in front of me the letter addressed to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) who did respond. The letter pointed out the number of structurally deficient bridges in each Member's district and then pointed out that, in 2002, the U.S. Department of Transportation found that 167,566 of the Nation's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Since then, that number has grown to, of the 597,340 bridges in the national bridge inventory, 26 percent are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Then the cost to repair and bring to a good state of maintenance, the cost in 2004, was estimated at \$9.4 billion a year to maintain. In the SAFETEA-LU legislation, we provided \$4 billion a year. It should have been at \$5 billion. If the original introduced bill Mr. YOUNG and I introduced in October of 2003 had prevailed, we'd have been at \$5 billion a year. We are where we are.

But this is the map, in smaller form, that we sent out to all Members of the House in 2004. For the State of Minnesota, it lists all the structurally deficient bridges. There are 19 on this list updated today.

The State of Minnesota has 13,000 bridges. 1,135 are structurally deficient. 451 are functionally obsolescent. That's 12.2 percent. That's one of the lowest percentages in the country, but it underscores the serious problem of the State of Minnesota and of the Nation's bridges.

We come to the floor today united in purpose to help the State rebuild this structure. The estimate from the Minnesota Department of Transportation is in the range of \$200 plus million, which may grow, depending on the bridge abutments on both sides of the river; and the structural integrity of

those facilities has yet to be fully evaluated. So the \$250 million is a soundly based estimate, based on engineering evaluations, and is a fair number, and so is the funding that we provide in the legislation to compensate the State for the shift from highway transportation to transit as occurred in California, in Oakland earlier this year in April when their bridge collapsed due to a tanker truck collapse.

Those are the basic figures. Those are the justifications. We've limited, capped the dollar amount for transit at \$5 million in response to a question from the other body, and we have a well-supported figure of \$250 million for the reconstruction out of general revenue funds.

I appeal for the support of this body for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3311 and join the gentleman from Minnesota whose State and area has been hit by this terrible, horrible tragedy that's taken lives.

And on our side of the aisle, when we do have a national tragedy of this nature, we do try to pull together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs of people who have suffered this type of, again, horrible disaster.

I know that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) has taken a leadership role today in approving this money; and I'm pleased, as the Republican leader, to also come forward and lend our support for this authorization.

Now, many people have asked me what we're doing here today. And we are authorizing \$250 million for repair and reconstruction of the I-35 bridge over the Mississippi River. Now that's authorization and Federal authorization. It is not funding, and there must be appropriations.

I might say that we're doing that because the authorization fund, the Highway Emergency Relief Fund, unfortunately, we had \$100 million and it's depleted. Not only is that \$100 million depleted but also the reserve and additional money that was put in in the supplemental is depleted. So that's why we're doing this for our friends and colleagues and those who have suffered this loss in Minnesota.

It's my hope that this bridge will be built in rapid order and replaced; and I know that the good custodians in Minnesota, with their Transportation Department, will work to see that happen.

But let me say that the Minnesota bridge is only, unfortunately, the tip of the iceberg in an aging infrastructure and transportation system that we have in this country. We have, out of almost 600,000 bridges, about 80,000 bridges that are structurally deficient. Twenty-seven percent of our bridges are structurally deficient or obsolete, according to one of the most recent studies; and the infrastructure, not

just in bridges but in highways, in ports, in airports, in rail, is inadequate and it's outdated.

I proposed as a solution recently a national strategic transportation plan. The American Council of Civil Engineers has estimated this will take \$1.7 trillion.

We need a national plan to restore our infrastructure from sea to shining sea, where we have congestion, where we have bridges falling into our rivers and where we have inadequate infrastructure on which to conduct the business of this country or just get around our congested communities.

So we need a bigger plan, and then we need a way to finance that plan, and I look forward to working with all of the Members in trying to develop that plan and with this administration and the next administration.

□ 1730

So finally, as I close with my initial thoughts, I want to say that our prayers go out to the people of Minnesota, especially the families of those affected by this tragedy. And I pledge from our side of the aisle again to work with every Member in Congress and with the folks in Minnesota to bring things back to regular order there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minneapolis (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the distinguished chairman of the Transportation Committee and also thank all the members of the Minneapolis delegation and every single Member of this esteemed body. This is the greatest deliberative body in the world and in the history of the world. And the evidence of that is that not only, not only does this body thoroughly debate issues, but when tragedy strikes one, people respond in the most humanitarian way. Even though we have strong points of difference of opinion, when tragedy strikes America, we have no Republicans, we have no Democrats. We just have Members of Congress who are responsive to the people of this country.

So, Mr. Chair, I want to thank you for your bold, decisive action. I want to thank all the members of the community in Minnesota who have responded, not only the official responders but the good Samaritans as well. And let me urge every Member to support this most important measure that will restore our country.

But, again, it is the tip of the iceberg. We need a new national commitment to the infrastructure of this country.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the Republican subcommittee leader on the Highways Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, Ranking

Member MICA, for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of this bill, offered by our distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, my good friend (Mr. OBERSTAR), along with my good friend (Mr. MICA).

Our condolences, in fact the condolences of the entire Nation, go out to the people of Minnesota who were affected by this terrible tragedy.

And I want to recognize Mr. OBERSTAR's leadership and his efforts to provide an immediate response to this incident. Less than 18 hours after the I-35W bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River, Mr. OBERSTAR introduced this bill, H.R. 3311.

This bill authorizes funding to help the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area get back on its feet. It authorizes \$250 million from the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program for the repair and reconstruction of the I-35W bridge that collapsed Wednesday night.

Yesterday, the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, went to Minneapolis, visited the site, and immediately made available \$5 million to pay for traffic-flow adjustments and debris removal associated with this disaster. But this bill takes the first step in providing funding to repair and rebuild this bridge.

While we will not know for several months the final cost to repair and rebuild the I-35W bridge, this bill demonstrates the House's support and certainly the strong commitment from our committee to rebuild this bridge and restore some sense of normalcy to the Minneapolis-St. Paul region.

Mr. Speaker, there was a column in The Washington Post today that repeated some of the statistics you have just heard from the gentleman from Georgia about the number of deficient bridges, but this columnist also said this: "It's unrealistic to think this disaster is going to spur the Nation to seriously address all its infrastructure problems. We'll talk about the issue for a while, then go out and buy another TV. But we can, and should, at least do a more rigorous inventory and identify the structures that pose the most peril. Yes, it's boring stuff to even think about. But just look at the alternative."

Those are very true words, Mr. Speaker, and I pledge the support of our subcommittee and to work with all the leadership on our committee to not do what this columnist has said and just forget about this or move on to something else too quickly. We owe that to the people of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, 2 days ago my daughter did have a best friend who was crossing the Mississippi River. She

crossed long before the bridge collapsed. Only 2 days ago the world witnessed the collapse of a massive bridge that crosses the Mississippi River, America's heartland.

The world is now witnessing America's heroism, our first responders, our community leaders, and all of our citizens coming together to rescue victims, to heal the injured, and to mourn those lost. As of today, we know more than 130 people have been treated for injuries, 5 individuals have lost their lives, including 2 of my constituents.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the families of the known victims: Sherry Lou Engebretsen of Shoreview, Patrick Holmes of Mounds View, Julia Blackhawk of Savage, and Artemeeo Trinidad-Meena of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis and my home of St. Paul, we are the Twin Cities. Together our cities are united, along with all of our surrounding communities, in responding to this disaster and addressing the massive redistribution of traffic to meet the needs of commuters and businesses as a result of the bridge collapse.

My dear friend from Minneapolis, Congressman Keith Ellison, has my full support as our communities work together to heal and rebuild. The people of Minneapolis are fortunate to have Congressman ELLISON working for them, and we are all proud to stand with him, as his constituents are.

Minnesota is also blessed to have Chairman OBERSTAR leading the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the House. Chairman OBERSTAR is leading this bill and will lead our Nation forward.

Minnesotans are facing the pain, the loss, and the immense transportation challenges resulting from this bridge collapse. But every American in every State now feels an unavoidable fear about everyday risks. This week the phrase "structurally deficient" became part of our Nation's vocabulary. This week millions of Americans use bridges that have been deemed structurally deficient or, even worse, functionally obsolete. Imagine trusting your family's safety and well-being to a bridge that is "functionally obsolete."

American families should not have to worry about this. Passage of this bill will do one small step in rebuilding and uniting a community and a State, but we must make sure that every American family feels safe.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished former Chair of the T&I Committee and the senior Republican on the T&I Committee, Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate the chairman, Mr. OBERSTAR, and the Minnesota delegation in expediting this process

with the leadership of Mr. MICA and the leadership of both sides.

I don't do this often when I say I told you so. As chairman, with Mr. OBERSTAR, we tried to put the money in to identify the weaknesses of the bridges and to repair them, and we were unsuccessful. We ended up with a \$286 billion bill instead of a \$375 billion bill.

Mr. and Mrs. America, I believe it is time for us to wake up. We have to repair our outdated infrastructure, especially our bridges. You have heard statistics, 11,000 and on and on, how many are deficient. But there are about 500 in the same shape as the bridge in Minnesota right now that are a potential death trap to constituencies.

We have to, as a Congress, grasp this problem and, yes, lo and behold, I would even suggest fund this problem with a tax. May the sky not fall on me, but with a tax. Make it a 3-year tax. Make it a 5-cent tax, and they will say we can't do that. But I would suggest respectfully that the American people will understand the importance if we fund it and if we address the issue of the bridges. We should do this.

And maybe this is a wake-up call, and I hope The Post is wrong, that we all don't go back to sleep and watch football this fall and forget this tragic accident, because if we do so, then we are not fulfilling our obligation and our duty.

So I stand here before you today saying I told you so. But I am also saying let's act as we should to protect our people in every one of our States.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska for his leadership on SAFETEA-LU and for the participation we enjoyed together in crafting that and previous legislation. I thank him for his comments, with which I concur.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the Speaker, the gentleman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank you, Mr. OBERSTAR, you and Mr. MICA, for your leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor in such an expeditious manner so we can remove all doubt in anyone's mind in Minnesota that we are there for them.

A disaster of this kind, I know, coming from California where we have had our earthquakes and others coming from places that had been struck by one disaster or another, that people wonder if the compact between themselves and the government is real, and today you are telling them that it is so. We can extend all of the sympathy in our hearts to the people who have lost their loved ones or who have been injured or have just been struck by the tragedy in such an extraordinary way, but we also have to not only extend compassion but present assistance. And for that I want to thank you Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. WALZ, Congresswoman

McCOLLUM, Mr. ELLISON. My sympathy to you and your constituents for all that you are suffering, Mr. PETERSON, as well from the State of Minnesota and our Republican colleagues from the State of Minnesota as well.

Sometimes in the course of events, there comes a coming together of a person and an event that is almost God given. And I think that is this case, Mr. OBERSTAR. No one in the country knows more than you do about the infrastructure of our country, the needs that we have out there, and the solutions that are the best ones. We are sad that your State was stricken, but maybe it is fortuitous for the country because it hit home for you. The spotlight is on your State. The spotlight is on your committee as we reach out with this \$250 million for the highway emergency fund. I think that the opportunity that is there and the knowledge, wisdom, solutions that you know better than anyone will serve our country very well.

I really appreciated the remarks of the gentleman from Alaska. We do have to make an investment in our infrastructure. In this case, no maintenance is the most expensive maintenance, as the people in Minnesota found out as some of their loved ones paid with their lives. So we have to figure out a way to pay as we go, no deficit spending, but understand that a capital budget is necessary to invest in the infrastructure of our country. It is what we owe the American people. It is about our environment, by relieving congestion. It is about quality time for families to spend less time on the roads. And as we learned, of course, and always knew but what was driven home in Minnesota, it is about the safety of our people.

Imagine, to be a mom or dad and to have a loved one leave home, a husband or wife, sister or brother, leave home in the morning or sometime during the day, of all the things you can protect your children from, of all the anticipation that you can have, you would never think, What if the bridge goes down? We want to remove that fear from America's families.

□ 1745

I know, Mr. OBERSTAR, that you are in a position to do so. I'm sure you will let us know how we can all help. And, Mr. MICA, you as well. This is bringing us together this evening in a very special way. I hope it is a comfort to the families who lost their loved ones that so many people in our country feel this as a personal loss and are praying for them at this very difficult time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to probably one of the most capable and compassionate Members of the House I know and the senior Republican of the Minnesota delegation, the gentleman, Mr. RAMSTAD.

Mr. RAMSTAD. I thank the distinguished ranking member, my friend, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, no Minnesotan will ever forget August 1, 2007. No Minnesotan will ever forget the day the I-35W bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River. No Minnesotan will forget the tragic loss of life, the serious injuries, and the incredible devastation caused by the falling eight-lane bridge. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, the survivors and their families as well as the brave first responders who have worked night and day on rescue and recovery operations.

My special thanks go out to the firefighters, the law enforcement personnel, the EMS personnel as well as the Minnesota National Guard and countless Good Samaritans for their heroic rescue and recovery efforts.

A special thanks, Mr. Speaker, to Governor Pawlenty for his great leadership as well as Hennepin County sheriff Rich Stanek, Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak, Representative KEITH ELLISON, and the rest of our Minnesota congressional delegation who have come together. I want to particularly thank the dean of our delegation, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR, for his extraordinary leadership in moving this delegation bill before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask all of our colleagues for their overwhelming bipartisan support to pass this crucial bill tonight so we can authorize funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the I-35 bridge that collapsed last Wednesday. Also, Mr. Speaker, we need the funds for much-needed emergency relief as well.

At this time of great need, Mr. Speaker, the good people of Minnesota are very grateful. We thank all of you for your support. We thank the Nation for their thoughts and prayers. We thank God that we live in a country where we can come together to help each other at our time of greatest need.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ).

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I thank the distinguished gentleman, my fellow Minnesotan, the chairman of Transportation, and, as the Speaker of the House so aptly put, no one in this country knows more about this issue. If there's anyone that comes close, it's the distinguished ranking member from Florida, a gentleman that as sitting on the Transportation Committee, I've come to see the wisdom of his words and the commitment to this country's infrastructure. So I think the Speaker of the House is right, two gentlemen that are showing incredible leadership on this and that our Nation should feel incredibly proud to have you there. I thank you both.

A special thank you to all my colleagues in this House. The citizens of Minnesota in responding to this have witnessed something that I think most of us here should be incredibly proud of. In less than 48 hours of this tragedy, this body came together, crafted a piece of legislation to provide relief,

and is prepared tonight to deliver that forward to them. To the people who are out there, those citizens, those first responders, our elected officials, from Governor Pawlenty to Mayor Rybak and right down the line have been there working together, showing that this great Nation when we put our mind to it and come together to relieve the suffering of one another can get exactly that done.

It's with a heavy heart that all of us are here, but it's one of optimism and forward-looking that we will address the needs of Minnesota, and, as the distinguished gentleman from Alaska so aptly put, we're prepared to make sure that this never happens again and another family never has to find out that a bridge collapsed as their family members were coming home.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to another outstanding Member of the Minnesota delegation, Mr. KLINE.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to add my thanks to all of our colleagues here in the House, the Minnesota delegation certainly, and, of course, as Mr. RAMSTAD said, to our dean, the chairman of the Transportation Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR.

While reports continue to be updated due to the ongoing recovery operations, the number of victims is already shocking to us in Minnesota. But these numbers are not simply statistics that might roll off the tongue as a footnote to a tragedy which Governor Tim Pawlenty accurately described as, quote, a catastrophe of historic proportions for Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, these numbers are people. These numbers are the family, friends and neighbors who were simply going home to their loved ones after what appeared to be just another workday. Among the deceased is a mother of two from Savage, Minnesota, in my congressional district, and my heart and prayers go to her family and to all the victims.

Although this is a time of sorrow for many, there are countless stories emerging already about the generosity and compassion of the citizens of Minnesota. From organizing blood drives and volunteers, to caring for the needs of the recovery workers, Minnesotans are going above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, as the citizens of Minnesota have come together during this difficult time, my colleagues in the Minnesota delegation and I remain committed to helping restore the I-35W bridge. Together, we're working to provide the Federal resources necessary to recover from this tragedy, and the fine effort brought forward by our chairman, Mr. OBERSTAR, putting forth \$250 million is so important to us in Minnesota.

In the wake of this disaster, it is difficult to imagine when all the questions will be answered, but the day will come when recovery efforts will be complete, investigations will conclude,

and eventually a new I-35 bridge will reunite the banks of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Speaker, again our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the victims and their families and with all Minnesotans as we recover and rebuild. Again, I want to thank the gentleman, the chairman, Mr. OBERSTAR, for authoring this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I would like to inquire how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin, our neighboring State (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago our Nation watched with shock and horror as the I-35 bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Many of the residents of my congressional district in western Wisconsin make a daily commute to their jobs in the twin cities. Many of them over this very bridge. Their safety and the safety of all of our residents is our utmost concern. Our thoughts and prayers go out this evening to the victims of that great tragedy along with their families and the community.

But at moments of great tragedy, Mr. Speaker, there are also moments of great triumph, of strangers coming to the aid of strangers, the first responders answering that emergency call, health care providers administering first aid and taking care of the injured during this great tragedy. And now it's our turn. It's our turn as a Nation. It's our turn as a Congress to come together and make sure we pass this authorization for the appropriation of funds so we can begin rebuilding this important bridge but also help the community rebuild and to ensure that this tragedy is never repeated anywhere else throughout the country.

I commend the leadership of the Transportation Committee, the chairman and the ranking member, the members of the committee, but especially the Minnesota delegation for how they've been able to rally amongst themselves but also to get this body to come together during this time of crucial need to do the right thing, step up and to assume our responsibility as a great Nation and come to the aid of those who have suffered during this tragedy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the newest Member of the Minnesota delegation, a rising star in Congress, and the people of Minnesota are very fortunate to have her here at this time (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

In what feels now like a lifetime ago but was in fact only 2 days ago, on August 1, the world changed forever for the people of our State of Minnesota. Our people witnessed an event so unlikely, the sudden and complete collapse of nearly 2,000 feet of eight lanes of highway, propelling nearly 50 cars in midair for a horrific 60-foot plunge into the currents of the Mississippi River. An event so unlikely that we in Minnesota collectively remain shocked and filled with sorrow, knowing the inevitable sad news that is yet to come once our heroic first responders have freed our fellow Americans who even now as we stand here remain trapped underwater.

Minnesota needs the help and the prayers of all Americans and we appreciate the overwhelming support in our time of need. I know I speak for my husband Marcus and myself. We offer our deepest sympathies, as does everyone in our delegation, to the family and the friends of those who were killed.

Mr. Speaker, America believes in extending a helping hand to people who are in trouble due to no fault of their own, and I want to assure the residents of Minnesota today that we will have help in cleaning up and rebuilding. We will have help until the job is done. Because Congress understands, Republicans, Democrats, we're all Americans in this and we understand that this is not just an emergency for a day or for a week. We will provide the support and the work that is necessary to rebuild the lives and the communities that were damaged until this tragedy is over. And that is what makes America so great.

This bill is just our first step toward recovery. I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his brilliant work, working around the clock to bring this to the floor. It's inspiring the way so many have come together and worked together over these last few days.

I join my colleagues from Minnesota, a great State that each one of us loves so much, in requesting your support to rebuild this bridge. Once again, I know we can count on you, the Members of this great deliberative body, to rebuild the great city of Minneapolis and again to make it whole.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN), a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3311, and let's build that bridge together. This is an emergency resolution, to repair and reconstruct a functionally obsolete bridge, the I-35, which spanned two peoples, brought two peoples together, across a divide.

And much in the same way, isn't it time that we begin to work together here in Congress? And by working together we will not just build a bridge across a divide but build a bridge between the parties which some in our

land may feel are also functionally obsolete.

□ 1800

Here in Congress we can build a bridge together, and while we're at it, let's build a better Nation together as well. Because it's not about the party you're in, it's about doing the Nation's business and building a Nation for all of us.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to one of the most distinguished and senior Members, not only in Congress, but the senior member of the Florida delegation, former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. YOUNG, my friend.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for yielding the time to me.

I rise in strong support of the legislation to provide relief in response to the tragedy surrounding the collapse of Interstate 35W Bridge spanning the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.

The people in my area of Florida remember this type of grief, and we share the grief of the people of Minnesota. It was during a violent storm at 7:38 a.m. the morning of May 9, 1980, that a freighter, the *Summit Venture*, slammed into the Sunshine Skyway Bridge which spans Tampa Bay to connect my district to Manatee County in the south, across Tampa Bay. Thirty-five people in their vehicles fell more than 1,200 feet into the waters of Tampa Bay that morning, fell to their deaths.

The Sunshine Skyway is a Florida landmark. The scenes of the mangled bridge missing 1,260 feet of the center span of the southbound lanes of the bridge was a daily reminder of the tragedy, and we remember, and we remember for the people of Minnesota.

Only two people survived the accident in Florida, one whose car skidded to a halt at the bridge's edge and the other who survived his pick-up truck's fall into the water and swam to safety.

For 7 years, the damaged span stood as a constant reminder. Congress, however, began the healing process very shortly after that tragedy, as we do today for the Minnesota tragedy.

I thank and compliment and commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Mr. MICA, my good friend and colleague from Florida, who worked so hard on all of these issues and for moving this legislation quickly in a bipartisan way to bring support for the people of Minnesota.

The House responded to my request for funding to help rebuild the Sunshine Skyway Bridge quickly in the same type of fashion. So, as I said, we remember and we share the grief that you suffer today because we went through it back in 1980; and this Member stands ready to help in any way that we can to not only pass this authorization bill but to pass the appropriations that go along with it.

I thank my friend, Mr. MICA, for yielding the time to me. He is an outstanding leader in our delegation; and

he does, I think, an exceptional job for all of us.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I will yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. OBERSTAR, I thank you for paying attention to the important responsibility you have, not only as Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee but as a good steward for the people of your State in a time of need.

And, you know, it's amazing what we can do in this House. It's absolutely incredible. Mr. YOUNG has been here for many years, and I have always looked up to him as one of our leaders. We started some years ago, senior to me, but I followed his career and what he has been able to do on a bipartisan basis.

And when we do have an emergency, whether it's 9/11 or whether it's a bridge that collapses in Minnesota, it's amazing what this House of Representatives can do when it comes together in a bipartisan fashion. That tragedy just occurred a matter of hours ago, and here we are, in our system, working together, helping those people. We're not going to solve this all by the Federal Government; and, as I said, this is only an authorization. But people are in need, and we came together, as this body is designed to do.

But, as I said, the bridge is just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. Our Nation's infrastructure is collapsing. Our Nation's infrastructure is obsolete. We have got to come together.

We came together, Mr. OBERSTAR and I, with a Water Resources bill that hadn't been passed in 7 years, but we brought it here, it is now pending final approval, to build the Nation's dams and infrastructure, also important. And we see that if you don't pay now, you will pay later.

So we can do this. We can make the investment to build the infrastructure that makes our economy grow, that makes this a great country and allows free enterprise to give us the great life that we've had in this wonderful country.

So I look forward, Mr. OBERSTAR, to finalizing this with you and helping the people in this time of need and also in taking on a leadership position as we make the investment in our country that is so necessary in our infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time.

I think the applause on our side for all of the speakers shows the depth of feeling, the depth of appreciation that the Minnesota delegation feels toward each other, toward others in the body

who have spoken tonight, toward our ranking member, Mr. MICA, to whom, once again, I express my appreciation for the responsiveness and to prompt action on this matter.

And to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. YOUNG, I remember so well the Sunshine Skyway Bridge tragedy and later included it in a hearing that then Mr. Clinger, my ranking member on the Investigation and Oversight Subcommittee, held hearings that included that tragedy. I was here to vote on the funding for that restoration of that bridge, and I appreciate the gentleman's recollection.

We will look back, I guess, in a few days, on this moment as a welcome respite from the cacophony of dissidence that we have heard in the last several hours in this body. Unfortunately, tragedy, loss of life and injury has brought us together, but it shows the greatness of this House of Representatives, that it can come together and find common cause and move ahead.

I hope that respite from cacophony will prevail in the other body as we send this legislation forward and that there will not be, as has been threatened, procedural issues raised or jurisdictional matters that may be raised that might deter a provision of this legislation to provide respite from the congestion that will result in the reconstruction of this bridge and that already is occurring in the city of Minneapolis.

The House provided respite for Oakland, San Francisco in the collapse of the 580 and 880 structures just earlier this year, in April. We provide almost identical language and support in this legislation. I just hope the other body will not raise objections and move this legislation forward, because those are relatively minor matters that be can resolved in the management by DOT of that transit language.

I want to thank all our colleagues for the dignity of this discussion tonight and for the support expressed for the people of Minnesota by the rest of the Nation. We thank you, thank all our colleagues, and we ask for a wholehearted vote in support of this legislation.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the good people of Minnesota who have banded together to begin the healing process. When that bridge fell, every citizen of my State felt the grief and the pain together. It has certainly been a difficult couple of days for everyone, but I am so proud of the first responders, of the volunteers, and of my colleagues here in the House. I'd like to give a special thanks to Chairman OBERSTAR, for acting so quickly. He has represented Minnesota, and the House, very well. I'd also like to say that Representative ELLISON has done a remarkable job in representing his district during these last 48 hours.

It is a shame that it sometimes takes the worst events to bring out the best in people, but I am so proud of the wonderful actions Minnesotans have taken to help the victims of

the I35W bridge. I think the people involved in the recovery actions have truly demonstrated the incredible character of Minnesota's citizens.

Nothing can replace what was lost on Wednesday. No amount of money will do that. Neither will a new bridge. But this bill is a strong step on the road to healing. Thank you Chairman OBERSTAR, thank you to the members of the Minnesota Delegation and thank you to all my colleagues who have helped support the citizens of my State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3311, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 819]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie	Buyer	Doyle
Ackerman	Calvert	Drake
Aderholt	Camp (MI)	Dreier
Akin	Campbell (CA)	Duncan
Alexander	Cannon	Edwards
Allen	Cantor	Ehlers
Altmire	Capito	Ellison
Andrews	Capps	Ellsworth
Arcuri	Capuano	Emanuel
Baca	Cardoza	Emerson
Bachmann	Carnahan	Engel
Bachus	Carney	English (PA)
Baird	Carson	Eshoo
Baker	Carter	Etheridge
Baldwin	Castle	Everett
Barrett (SC)	Castor	Fallin
Barrow	Chabot	Farr
Bartlett (MD)	Chandler	Fattah
Barton (TX)	Clay	Ferguson
Bean	Clyburn	Filner
Becerra	Coble	Flake
Berkley	Cohen	Forbes
Berman	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry
Berry	Conaway	Fossella
Biggart	Conyers	Foxx
Bilbray	Cooper	Frank (MA)
Bilirakis	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Costello	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Gallely
Blackburn	Cramer	Garrett (NJ)
Blumenauer	Crowley	Gerlach
Blunt	Cubin	Giffords
Boehner	Cuellar	Gilchrest
Bonner	Culberson	Gillibrand
Bono	Cummings	Gillmor
Boozman	Davis (AL)	Gingrey
Boren	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Boswell	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez
Boucher	Davis, David	Goode
Boustany	Davis, Lincoln	Goodlatte
Boyd (FL)	Davis, Tom	Gordon
Boyd (KS)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Graves
Brady (TX)	DeGette	Green, Al
Braley (IA)	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Broun (GA)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gutierrez
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall (NY)
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hall (TX)
Ginny	Dicks	Hare
Buchanan	Dingell	Harman
Burgess	Doggett	Hastert
Burton (IN)	Donnelly	Hastings (FL)
Butterfield	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)

Heller	McDermott	Sánchez, Linda
Hensarling	McGovern	T.
Herger	McHenry	Sanchez, Loretta
Herseeth Sandlin	McHugh	Sarbanes
Higgins	McNulty	Saxton
Hill	McIntyre	Schakowsky
Hinchev	McKeon	Schiff
Hinojosa	McMorris	Schmidt
Hirono	Rodgers	Schwartz
Hobson	McNerney	Schwartz
Hodes	McNulty	Scott (GA)
Hoekstra	Meek (FL)	Scott (VA)
Holden	Meeks (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Holt	Melancon	Serrano
Honda	Mica	Sessions
Hooley	Michaud	Sestak
Hoyer	Miller (FL)	Shadegg
Hulshof	Miller (MI)	Shays
Hunter	Miller (NC)	Shea-Porter
Inglis (SC)	Miller, Gary	Sherman
Inslee	Miller, George	Shimkus
Israel	Mitchell	Shuler
Issa	Mollohan	Shuster
Jackson (IL)	Moore (KS)	Simpson
Jackson-Lee	Moore (WI)	Sires
(TX)	Moran (KS)	Skelton
Jefferson	Moran (VA)	Slaughter
Jindal	Murphy (CT)	Smith (NE)
Johnson (GA)	Murphy, Patrick	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (IL)	Murphy, Tim	Smith (TX)
Johnson, E. B.	Murtha	Smith (WA)
Jones (NC)	Musgrave	Snyder
Jones (OH)	Myrick	Solis
Jordan	Nadler	Souder
Kagen	Napolitano	Space
Kanjorski	Neal (MA)	Spratt
Kaptur	Neugebauer	Stark
Keller	Nunes	Stearns
Kennedy	Oberstar	Stupak
Kildee	Obey	Sullivan
Kilpatrick	Oliver	Sutton
Kind	Ortiz	Tancredo
King (IA)	Pallone	Tanner
King (NY)	Pascrell	Tauscher
Kingston	Pastor	Taylor
Kirk	Payne	Terry
Klein (FL)	Pearce	Thompson (CA)
Kline (MN)	Pence	Thompson (MS)
Knollenberg	Perlmutter	Thornberry
Kucinich	Peterson (MN)	Tiahrt
Kuhl (NY)	Peterson (PA)	Tiberi
LaHood	Petri	Tierney
Lamborn	Pickering	Towns
Lampson	Pitts	Turner
Langevin	Platts	Udall (CO)
Lantos	Poe	Udall (NM)
Larsen (WA)	Pomeroy	Upton
Larson (CT)	Porter	Van Hollen
Latham	Price (GA)	Velázquez
LaTourette	Price (NC)	Visclosky
Lee	Pryce (OH)	Walberg
Levin	Putnam	Walden (OR)
Lewis (GA)	Radanovich	Walsh (NY)
Lewis (KY)	Rahall	Walz (MN)
Linder	Ramstad	Wamp
Lipinski	Rangel	Wasserman
LoBiondo	Regula	Schultz
Loebsack	Rehberg	Waters
Lofgren, Zoe	Reichert	Watson
Lowe	Renzi	Watt
Lucas	Reyes	Waxman
Lungren, Daniel	Reynolds	Weiner
E.	Rodriguez	Welch (VT)
Lynch	Rogers (AL)	Weldon (FL)
Mack	Rogers (KY)	Weller
Mahoney (FL)	Rogers (MI)	Westmoreland
Maloney (NY)	Rohrabacher	Wexler
Manzullo	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
Marchant	Roskam	Wicker
Markey	Ross	Wilson (NM)
Marshall	Rothman	Wilson (OH)
Matheson	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (SC)
Matsui	Royce	Wolf
McCarthy (CA)	Ruppersberger	Woolsey
McCarthy (NY)	Rush	Wu
McCollum (MN)	Ryan (OH)	Wynn
McCotter	Ryan (WI)	Yarmuth
McCreery	Salazar	Young (AK)
	Sali	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Bishop (UT)	Davis (KY)	Johnson, Sam
Clarke	Davis, Jo Ann	Lewis (CA)
Cleaver	Feeney	Paul
Crenshaw	Hayes	

□ 1830

Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr.

SALI changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 819, I was unavoidably detained dealing with a serious health issue with my ill mother who is being prepared for movement to a long-term care facility; had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 199, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 820]

YEAS—216

Abercrombie	Dingell	Lantos
Ackerman	Doggett	Larsen (WA)
Allen	Donnelly	Larson (CT)
Andrews	Doyle	Lee
Arcuri	Edwards	Levin
Baca	Ellison	Lewis (GA)
Baird	Ellsworth	Lipinski
Baldwin	Emanuel	Loebsack
Barrow	Engel	Lofgren, Zoe
Bean	Eshoo	Lowey
Becerra	Etheridge	Lynch
Berkley	Farr	Mahoney (FL)
Berman	Fattah	Maloney (NY)
Berry	Filner	Markey
Bishop (GA)	Frank (MA)	Matheson
Bishop (NY)	Giffords	Matsui
Blumenauer	Gillibrand	McCollum (MN)
Boren	Gonzalez	McDermott
Boswell	Green, Al	McGovern
Boucher	Green, Gene	McIntyre
Boyd (FL)	Grijalva	McNerney
Boyd (KS)	Gutierrez	McNulty
Brady (PA)	Hall (NY)	Meek (FL)
Braley (IA)	Hare	Meeks (NY)
Brown, Corrine	Harman	Melancon
Butterfield	Hastings (FL)	Michaud
Capps	Herseeth Sandlin	Miller (NC)
Capuano	Higgins	Miller, George
Cardoza	Hill	Mitchell
Carnahan	Hinchev	Mollohan
Carson	Hinojosa	Moore (KS)
Castle	Hirono	Moore (WI)
Castor	Hodes	Moran (VA)
Chandler	Holden	Murphy (CT)
Clay	Holt	Murphy, Patrick
Cleaver	Honda	Murtha
Clyburn	Hooley	Nadler
Cohen	Hoyer	Napolitano
Conyers	Inslee	Neal (MA)
Cooper	Israel	Oberstar
Costa	Jackson (IL)	Obey
Costello	Jackson-Lee	Oliver
Courtney	(TX)	Ortiz
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Crowley	Johnson (IL)	Pastor
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Payne
Cummings	Jones (OH)	Perlmutter
Davis (AL)	Kagen	Pomeroy
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Davis (IL)	Kennedy	Rahall
Davis, Lincoln	Kildee	Rangel
DeFazio	Kilpatrick	Reyes
DeGette	Kind	Rodriguez
Delahunt	Klein (FL)	Ross
DeLauro	Lampson	Rothman
Dicks	Langevin	Roybal-Allard

Ruppersberger	Sires	Velázquez
Ryan (OH)	Skelton	Visclosky
Salazar	Slaughter	Walz (MN)
Sánchez, Linda	Smith (WA)	Wasserman
T.	Snyder	Schultz
Sanchez, Loretta	Solis	Waters
Sarbanes	Space	Watson
Schakowsky	Spratt	Watt
Schiff	Sutton	Waxman
Schwartz	Tanner	Weiner
Scott (GA)	Tauscher	Welch (VT)
Scott (VA)	Taylor	Wexler
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (OH)
Sestak	Tierney	Woolsey
Shea-Porter	Udall (CO)	Wu
Sherman	Udall (NM)	Wynn
Shuler	Van Hollen	Yarmuth

NAYS—199

Aderholt	Garrett (NJ)	Pearce
Akin	Gerlach	Pence
Alexander	Gilchrest	Peterson (MN)
Altmire	Gillmor	Petri
Bachmann	Gingrey	Pickering
Bachus	Gohmert	Pitts
Baker	Goode	Platts
Barrett (SC)	Goodlatte	Poe
Bartlett (MD)	Granger	Porter
Barton (TX)	Graves	Price (GA)
Biggert	Hall (TX)	Pryce (OH)
Bilbray	Hastert	Putnam
Bilirakis	Heller	Radanovich
Blackburn	Hensarling	Ramstad
Boehner	Herger	Regula
Bonner	Hobson	Rehberg
Bono	Hoekstra	Reichert
Boozman	Hulshof	Renzi
Boustany	Hunter	Reynolds
Brady (TX)	Inglis (SC)	Rogers (AL)
Broun (GA)	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Brown (SC)	Jindal	Rogers (MI)
Brown-Waite,	Jones (NC)	Rohrabacher
Ginny	Jordan	Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan	Kanjorski	Roskam
Burgess	Keller	Royce
Burton (IN)	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Buyer	King (NY)	Sali
Calvert	Kingston	Saxton
Camp (MI)	Kirk	Schmidt
Campbell (CA)	Kline (MN)	Sensenbrenner
Cannon	Knollenberg	Sessions
Cantor	Kucinich	Shadegg
Capito	Kuhl (NY)	Shays
Carney	Lamborn	Shimkus
Carter	Latham	Shuster
Chabot	LaTourette	Simpson
Coble	Lewis (KY)	Smith (NE)
Cole (OK)	Linder	Smith (NJ)
Conaway	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Cubin	Lucas	Souder
Culberson	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Davis (KY)	E.	Stupak
Davis, David	Mack	Sullivan
Davis, Tom	Manzullo	Tancredo
Deal (GA)	Marchant	Terry
Dent	Marshall	Thompson (CA)
Diaz-Balart, L.	McCarthy (CA)	Thornberry
Diaz-Balart, M.	McCarthy (NY)	Tiaht
Doolittle	McCaul (TX)	Tiberi
Drake	McCotter	Turner
Dreier	McCrery	Upton
Duncan	McHenry	Walberg
Ehlers	McHugh	Walden (OR)
Emerson	McKeon	Walsh (NY)
English (PA)	McMorris	Wamp
Everett	Rodgers	Weldon (FL)
Fallin	Mica	Weiler
Feeney	Miller (FL)	Westmoreland
Ferguson	Miller (MI)	Whitfield
Flake	Miller, Gary	Wicker
Forbes	Moran (KS)	Wilson (NM)
Fortenberry	Murphy, Tim	Wilson (SC)
Fossella	Musgrave	Wolf
Foxo	Myrick	Wong
Franks (AZ)	Neugebauer	Young (AK)
Frelinghuysen	Nunes	Young (FL)
Galleghy	Pascrell	

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Paul
Blunt	Hayes	Peterson (PA)
Clarke	Clush	Rush
Crenshaw	Jefferson	Stark
Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, Sam	Towns
Gordon	LaHood	
	Lewis (CA)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain on this vote.

□ 1839

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I have a privileged resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 611

Whereas on November 8, 2006, Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi said “we will make this the most honest, ethical and open Congress in history.”;

Whereas on November 16, 2006, Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi said “This leadership team will create the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history.”;

Whereas on January 4, 2007, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said “As we open this new chapter in American history—an era in which we will seek to elevate results over rhetoric and put progress before partisanship—we will affirm our commitment to transparency, accountability and civility, which should be the hallmarks of this great institution.”;

Whereas on January 4, 2007, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said “the Members of this House will ensure the integrity of this institution when we conduct ourselves with integrity and hold accountable those who fail to abide by these rules and the highest ethical standards.”;

Whereas on December 8, 2006, Majority Whip-Elect James Clyburn said “Democrats will exercise better leadership in the new Congress and work to raise the standard of ethics in this body.”;

Whereas on August 1, 2007, the Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said “What is not fair, from our perspective, is to simply disallow the House to proceed to do its business, to have its disagreements, to make its votes, to express its will”;

Whereas the Speaker, as the presiding officer, is supposed to be the fair and impartial arbiter of the proceedings of the House, held to the highest ethical standards in deciding the various questions as they arise with impartiality and courtesy toward all Members, regardless of party affiliation;

Whereas the Members, as duly elected under Article I, section 2 of the Constitution of the United States, represent the people of the United States by casting their votes in the U.S. House of Representatives;

Whereas the Clerk of the House has the specific responsibility of accurately taking and tallying votes of the Members and preserving the records thereof;

Whereas on the evening of August 2, 2007, the House had under consideration H.R. 3161, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture and Related Agencies;

Whereas following completion of general debate and the reading of the bill for amendment, the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis) offered a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions that prohibited any funds in the bill from being used to employ or to provide rental housing assistance to an illegal alien not authorized to receive such assistance under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas Representative Lewis timely requested the yeas and nays, which once ordered were recorded by electronic device;

Whereas shortly following the expiration of time allotted for the recorded vote, the Chair gavelled the vote closed and announced that the motion had failed by a vote of 214 yeas to 214 nays, while the tally clerk was still processing additional votes through the electronic voting system;

Whereas during said time period, the Majority Leader stated to the Parliamentarian of the House, “We control, not the Parliamentarians.”

Whereas the Chair announced the results of the aforementioned vote after reading the totals from the electronic board to the Chair’s right without the benefit of the written tally customarily provided by the tally clerks;

Whereas a video recording of the proceedings produced by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer confirms that, while closing the vote, the Chair banged the gavel and spoke over the voice of the House Reading Clerk seated immediately in front of the Speaker’s rostrum, who can clearly be heard attempting to record the vote of another Member;

Whereas contrary to the vote total announced by the Chair, said electronic board, visible to all Members in the Chamber, indicated a final tally of 215 yeas and 213 nays;

Whereas the Majority Leader directed the Chair to reopen the vote, making it possible for Members to change their vote, and thereby altering the outcome;

Whereas several minutes later the Chair again closed the vote and announced that the motion had failed on a vote 212 yeas and 216 nays;

Whereas the Minority Leader immediately directed his staff to gather and review all available records regarding this incident; and

Whereas in the course of such review, the staff discovered that the electronic voting records related to this roll call vote were missing from the electronic voting system and upon inspecting the Clerk’s website, found no information regarding the disposition of the motion to recommit contrary to the long standing customary practice of that office: Now therefore be it

(1) Resolved, That—

The Officers of the House of Representatives are immediately directed to preserve all records, documents, recordings, electronic transmissions, or other material, regardless of form, related to the voting irregularities of August 2, 2007.

(2) there is hereby established a select committee to investigate the voting irregularities of August 2, 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the “select committee”). The select committee shall be comprised of 6 Members, of which 3 Members shall be appointed by the Speaker and 3 by the Minority Leader. The select committee shall—

(A) investigate the circumstances surrounding the record vote requested by the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis) on the motion to recommit to H.R. 3161, including the Chair’s ruling over the objections of the Parliamentarian;

(B) make an interim report to the House not later than September 30, 2007 and a final report not later than September 15, 2008—

(i) regarding the actions of any Members, officers, or employees of the House engaged in the disenfranchisement of Members in voting on the question; and

(ii) recommending changes to the rules and procedures of the House of Representatives necessary to protect the voting rights of constitutionally elected Members chosen by the people of the United States of America.

(3) The select committee shall have the same powers to obtain testimony and documents pursuant to subpoena as authorized under clause 2(m) of rule XI.

□ 1845

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of privilege.

Pursuant to rule IX, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) or his designee each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think the resolution that I offer outlines pretty clearly the promises that have been made and the promises I believe that have been broken over the course of the last 7 months. What we seek here is to understand exactly what did happen last night and to what extent changes in the rules need to be made to ensure that all Members are treated fairly.

As was stated in the resolution, myself and my colleagues in the minority believe that, in fact, we won the motion to recommit last night. We asked to bring this resolution that a select committee do, in fact, be impaneled, three Members from each side of the aisle to understand clearly what happened, but also to understand whether there are any changes in the rules that need to be made in order to ensure that all Members are treated fairly.

I and others have begun to believe that there's been a pattern of abuse that has occurred over the last several months. In many of these occurrences it appears the Chair is operating on their own, with little regard to the recommendations of the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarians are here to preserve the precedents of the House and to ensure that all Members are treated fairly.

And as we watched the tape from last night, we watched from activities earlier this week, watched activities, frankly, earlier today that a pattern of activity continues to occur, and I believe that it's important for this select committee that, if it is created, to not only understand what happened last night, but to understand clearly are there any other changes that need to be made to ensure that all Members' voices are, in fact, heard.

We outline a select committee, we outline a timing for an interim report, but it's something that I believe would be in the best interests of the House, and I would urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we had a conversation on the floor of the House today with reference to this matter. I introduced a resolution to investigate this matter. The minority leader asked me to withdraw that resolution. I withdrew it.

The minority leader then asked me to have a meeting with himself and Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CLYBURN attended that meeting. We discussed the incident of last night, we discussed proceeding to do the people's business, and what would be the conduct today.

The minority leader suggested that I have a member of my staff contact a member of his staff to discuss the creation of this select committee. That was just a few hours ago. Those discussions have not begun obviously and may not begin.

The minority leader talks about patterns. I think this is a pattern. I'm deeply disappointed, not by the resolution itself; although, we think the facts that are stated in the resolution are incorrect. I want to tell every Member of this House that I do not believe that there was any wrongdoing by any party yesterday. I do believe that there was a mistake made. I said that this morning. I repeat that this afternoon, and I regret it. I regret it because that mistake, understandably, angered those who perceived themselves disadvantaged by that mistake. I have a disagreement with the conclusion in here that has been again stated by the minority leader that I think would be disproved by any investigation that occurs.

There was never a call of the vote prevailing at 215–213 with a Republican motion to recommit prevailing. There was never a call by the Chair of that vote, period.

I observed, to the minority leader, that for 2 hours and 45 minutes I sat on this floor, actually, I'm not good at sitting on this floor. I walked around and talked to a lot of Members. For 2 hours and 45 minutes, my side was prevailing; not for 5 minutes, not for 2 minutes, not for 1 minute, as was the case last night. For 2 hours and 45 minutes, my side was prevailing, and the vote lasted another 10 minutes. It was referred to on "60 Minutes" last Sunday.

Now, historically, in the last 12 years, let me tell you what my friends' actions would have been on this motion. Immediately you would have moved to table. I do not do that. I do not accept the premises in your resolution, but I welcome the investigation. I applaud coming to the bottom of what happened because I know what happened.

Now, I wasn't looking behind me; I was looking at the Chair. But I've been informed of what happened, and what happened is eight people changed their votes. Three were Republicans, five were Democrats. There were 428 people who voted last night during that series of three votes. Every time the vote was called, 428 people voted. And the Chair called the vote at 214–214, which as all of you know adds up to 428. So every Member of the House had voted. No one was excluded. But some changed their vote on your side, and then some changed their vote on my side. And so the vote ended up and was finally called at 212–216, and we prevailed.

Now, as I said this morning, I understand the anger that existed and the sense of unfairness that was felt because, on the board electronically, when one of the changes came forward switching from one of the 214 to one of the 215 and reducing the 214 to 213, that was immediately reflected on the electronic board as the Speaker was announcing the vote, and so you were angry. I don't blame you. For 2 hours and 45 minutes as we sat on the prevailing side, the winning side, having more votes than your side, the vote was not closed. So I empathize with the sense of anger and frustration that you have.

And so what did I do? I didn't do what one of your former leaders did, just shrugged my shoulders and said, well, that's the way it goes, folks. I went to that rostrum, and I said we ought to vacate this vote and we ought to give everybody a fair shot at making sure the result is what those 428 votes want to do, because I understood that you had a sense of being wronged, and I wanted, to the extent I could, to try to right that wrong.

So I asked unanimous consent that that vote be vacated. There were many objections on your side of the aisle. I'm not sure why. You thought the vote was improperly cast. I know my friend, and everybody knows he's my friend, but we have a deep disagreement on this conclusion. Mr. BLUNT believes that you won 215–213. We were ahead for 2 hours and 45 minutes. We didn't prevail. Why? Because the Speaker did not call the vote, and the Speaker didn't call the vote at the 215–213 margin. He called it at 214–214; you're absolutely right. But then he said, no, I was premature because there were changing votes, and so that vote was not finalized. You're absolutely right. The vote that was finalized was the accurate vote, 212 for your resolution and 216 against your resolution.

Now, one of those 216, of course, was the minority leader. He switched so he could make the motion, I presume, to reconsider, but it was not necessary for him to do that. I wanted, as I said, to try to make this right because, as I said on Tuesday night, and I repeated this morning, I want to try to have a civil relationship.

□ 1900

I work with a lot of you in this House on that side of the aisle. I like a lot of you on that side of the aisle. Some of you I do not know as well as I know others. More importantly than that, this is about my 40th year in legislative office, and I believe that it is important that we say hi to one another, respect one another and have trust in one another.

After you objected to the vacation of the vote, I moved to reconsider the vote, by which we prevailed on your motion to recommit.

I don't know why you didn't vote on that. It passed. We all voted for it on this side. All the Members on this side

voted for it to give you a second chance because you felt the first go-around wasn't fair.

I think it was fair but not appearing so because of the 215–213. Now, this investigation will look into that. As I said, we welcome it. We will not move, therefore, to table.

I have been asked to ask for a unanimous consent to drop all the “whereas” clauses but accept the result. I am not going to do that. Let me tell you why I am not going to do it.

I do not accept those “whereases.” I think they are factually inaccurate. They were not reviewed by me, and there has been no meeting of our staffs, I say to my friend, the minority leader, which we discussed at approximately 11:30 this morning.

I withdrew my resolution. My expectation was that the minority leader and I would sit down and our staffs would sit down and discuss this matter and determine how best to investigate this. That's what we discussed. There was no discussion about this resolution coming forward. There was no notice to me that this discussion was going forward; and there was a request to me, which I honored, to withdraw my own resolution offered this morning. I am disappointed.

I am not going to oppose this resolution, and we will have an investigation. We will appoint three on our side, and we will appoint three on your side. We will appoint three fair-minded Members who care about this institution. I hope you will do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last night, when the gentleman from New York was in the chair and beginning to call the question and the electronic board moved to 215–213, my observation of the well of the House is that there was no one in the well of the House attempting to vote at that moment. It's why my colleagues and I, many of us, believed that we won. I think it's fair to say, many of my colleagues and I feel as though the vote was taken from us.

I understand the disagreement, and I appreciate the gentleman coming to an agreement on this Select Committee to get to the bottom of it.

But this morning's conversation was, well, we will talk about it. I am sorry, we could be talking about it for months.

I wanted to bring this resolution to the floor tonight so that there could be real action on this issue. We don't want to sit around here for months and months and talk about it and never come to some agreement and it's all over and done with. I think our Members want to get to the bottom of it as quickly as possible, and I am glad that the gentleman has agreed with us.

If the gentleman would like to work out some resolution dividing the question on the resolution before us, I

would be happy to do it. Because at the end of the day, what we want is we want to get to the bottom of what happened and are there any necessary changes that need to be made in order to protect the rights of all Members.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the minority whip, Mr. BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank Mr. BOEHNER for yielding; and I also thank my good friend, the majority leader, for being willing to accept this effort to look at the standards of how we do our business in the House.

In fact, I think many of my friends on our side, and obviously your side as well, want to be sure that the work of the House is done in a way that the American people can be proud of.

I think a lot of the problem that we saw last night, to our side, at least, was another indication of deciding that the normal behavior and the normal rules of the House may not apply any more. Last night's vote, I see some of my friends near the front of their House shaking their head, last night's vote is the only vote I am aware of in the House of Representatives in the 10 years and few months that I have been here that the Clerk did not write down a number which is the official end of the vote and hand it to the Speaker.

The Speaker, in fact, is talking over the Clerk while the Clerk is trying to announce votes are being changed.

If any Member on that side or our side, either one, has ever seen a time in the House when a vote was announced or sees one later today where the paper wasn't filled out and you wait for that paper, I would like to know when that was.

You know, as the whip of the House for the last 4 years, the previous two Congresses, I remember many times thinking that I wanted the vote over; and I remember many times thinking the Clerk is writing too slow, the Clerk is turning around too slow, the Speaker is reading the paper too slow, but I don't remember it ever not happening.

If that had happened, we would not have this problem. The vote on the board has nothing to do with the official tally. The Clerk keeps the official tally.

During that vote, someone said to the Parliamentarian, the Parliamentarians don't run the House, the majority does. Well, that's right. The Parliamentarians don't run the House. But the Parliamentarians provide the continuity of how the House is always run.

This is not the great legislative body it is because every Congress decides how they are going to run things. This isn't the great legislative body it is because those of us who, I think, if 78,000 votes in the entire country would have changed would be in the majority or the minority that we have no rights here. This is not the great legislative body it is because the majority just gets to decide.

Now, there are other instances in recent days when we believe the Parliamentarian gave other advice than was

taken. I don't want to create a problem for the Parliamentarian. But I do know that one night this week in debate Members of the House were told that their comments were irrelevant. Now, they might not have been the best comments in the world, they might not have been the most on-target comments in the world, but I never remember anybody in the chair ever before ruling that a Member's comments were irrelevant.

We are not irrelevant here. Just because we are in the minority does not mean we are irrelevant. Just because we have a small difference between our numbers and your numbers doesn't mean we are irrelevant. That doesn't mean that the Speaker can decide to end the votes when they want to, no matter what the traditions have been of the House.

It does mean, when the Speaker ends the vote, whatever the official tally is at that moment, which, by the way, is what the Clerk would write down, should be the official tally.

That's why, I may not be quite to the level of outrage, but that's why I am offended by how that process worked. I have never seen it happen before; I hope to never see it happen again.

If it had happened in the right way, we wouldn't be having this discussion right now. But maybe this discussion also allows us to look at our relationships with each other, our relationship with the Parliamentarian, the job of the Speaker in the chair is to create fairness. It's not to ensure that everything goes so that one side is happy and the other side is not.

I welcome the acceptance of my friend Mr. BOEHNER's resolution by the majority leader and, I assume, the majority. I look forward to the report. I hope this creates a moment when we all begin to think about what we are doing here and how we are doing it and the obligations we owed each other.

This is not a one-sided street. I understand that. Respect for each other, appreciation for each other, respect for the way business has been done here for a long time is an important part of what we all need to work to achieve, and hopefully this helps get that done.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I want to take the leader up on his offer, and I don't want to argue the facts more than we have done. Mr. BLUNT knows I disagree with the conclusions he has just expressed. We discussed our disagreements in my office just a few hours ago.

I want to take the leader up on his offer. And pursuant to that, I would ask unanimous consent that the Chair be permitted to divide the question of agreeing to House Resolution 611 between agreeing to the resolution and agreeing to the preambles.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. The preambles are your conclusions. I would therefore, with the question divided, I would hope, very frankly, Mr. Leader, as my resolution did, it did not make conclusions. It simply asserted that we ought to look into the matter. Your resolve clause says that. We will support that, but we will not support the conclusions.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the work of the majority leader, and for the benefit of all Members basically, the motion that the gentleman offers would strike the "whereases" contained in the resolution and leave the resolved clauses in place.

I appreciate his support and hope this will allow us to move on.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House, the Chair will first put the question on the matter following the resolved clause, followed by putting the question on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the preamble.

The preamble was not agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3356) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3356

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Foreign Intelligence Surveillance to Defend the Nation and the Constitution Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the acquisition of foreign intelligence information by providing for the electronic surveillance of persons reasonably believed to be outside the United States pursuant to methodologies proposed by the Attorney General, reviewed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and applied by the Attorney General without further court approval, unless otherwise required under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 105 the following:

"CLARIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

"SEC. 105A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a court order is not required for the acquisition of the contents of any communication between persons that are not located within the United States for the purpose of collecting foreign intelligence information, without respect to whether the communication passes through the United States or the surveillance device is located within the United States.

"ADDITIONAL PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

"SEC. 105B. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Attorney General, upon the authorization of the President, may apply to a judge of the court established under section 103(a) for an ex parte order, or an extension of an order, authorizing electronic surveillance for periods of not more than 1 year, for the purpose of acquiring foreign intelligence information, in accordance with this section.

"(b) APPLICATION.—

"(1) SPECIFIC PERSONS AND PLACES NOT REQUIRED.—An application for an order, or extension of an order, submitted under subsection (a) shall not be required to identify—

"(A) the persons, other than a foreign power, against whom electronic surveillance will be directed; or

"(B) the specific facilities, places, premises, or property at which the electronic surveillance will be directed.

"(2) CONTENTS.—An application for an order, or extension of an order, submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

"(A) a statement that the electronic surveillance is directed at persons reasonably believed to be outside the United States;

"(B) the identity of the Federal officer seeking to conduct such electronic surveillance;

"(C) a description of—

"(i) the methods to be used by the Attorney General to determine, during the duration of the order, that there is a reasonable belief that the targets of the electronic surveillance are persons outside the United States; and

"(ii) the procedures to audit the implementation of the methods described in clause (i) to achieve the objective described in that clause;

"(D) a description of the nature of the information sought, including the identity of any foreign power against whom electronic surveillance will be directed; and

"(E) a statement of the means by which the electronic surveillance will be effected and such other information about the surveillance techniques to be used as may be necessary to assess the proposed minimization procedures.

"(c) APPLICATION APPROVAL; ORDER.—

"(1) APPLICATION APPROVAL.—A judge considering an application for an order, or extension of an order, submitted under subsection (a) shall approve such application if the Attorney General certifies in writing under oath, and the judge upon consideration of the application determines, that—

"(A) the acquisition does not constitute electronic surveillance within the meaning of paragraph (1) or (3) of section 101(f);

"(B) the methods described by the Attorney General under subsection (b)(2)(B)(i) are reasonably designed to determine whether the persons are outside the United States;

"(C) a significant purpose of the electronic surveillance is to obtain foreign intelligence information;

"(D) the proposed minimization procedures meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h).

"(2) ORDER.—A judge approving an application pursuant to paragraph (1) shall issue an order that—

"(A) authorizes electronic surveillance as requested, or as modified by the judge;

"(B) requires a communications service provider, custodian, or other person who has the lawful authority to access the information, facilities, or technical assistance necessary to accomplish the electronic surveillance, upon the request of the applicant, to furnish the applicant forthwith with such information, facilities, or technical assistance in a manner that will protect the secrecy of the electronic surveillance and produce a minimum of interference with the services that provider, custodian, or other person is providing the target of electronic surveillance;

"(C) requires such communications service provider, custodian, or other person, upon the request of the applicant, to maintain under security procedures approved by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence any records concerning the acquisition or the aid furnished;

"(D) directs the Federal Government to compensate, at the prevailing rate, a person for providing information, facilities, or assistance pursuant to such order; and

"(E) directs the applicant to follow the minimization procedures as proposed or as modified by the court.

"(3) ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—At or before the end of the period of time for which electronic surveillance is approved by an order or an extension under this section, the judge may assess compliance with the minimization procedures by reviewing the circumstances under which information concerning United States persons was acquired, retained, or disseminated.

"(d) GUIDELINES FOR SURVEILLANCE OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Attorney General shall establish guidelines that are reasonably designed to ensure that an application is filed under section 104, if otherwise required by this Act, when the Attorney General seeks to initiate electronic surveillance, or continue electronic surveillance that began under this section, of a United States person.

"(e) SUBMISSION OF ORDERS, GUIDELINES, AND AUDITS.—

"(1) ORDERS.—Upon the entry of an order under subsection (c)(2), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress such order.

"(2) GUIDELINES.—Upon the establishment of the guidelines under subsection (d), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and the court established under section 103(a) such guidelines.

"(3) AUDITS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 60 days thereafter until the expiration of all orders issued under this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall complete an audit on the compliance with the guidelines established under subsection (d) and shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, and the court established under section 103(a)—

"(A) the results of such audit;

"(B) a list of any targets of electronic surveillance under this section determined to be in the United States; and

"(C) the number of persons in the United States whose communications have been intercepted under this section.

"(f) IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, during the first 15 days following the date of the enactment of this section, upon the authorization of the President, the Attorney General may authorize electronic surveillance without a court order under this title until the date that is 15 days after the date on which the Attorney General authorizes such electronic surveillance if the Attorney General determines—

“(A) that an emergency situation exists with respect to the employment of electronic surveillance to obtain foreign intelligence information before an order authorizing such surveillance can with due diligence be obtained; and

“(B) the electronic surveillance will be directed at persons reasonably believed to be outside the United States.

“(2) PENDING ORDER.—

“(A) INITIAL EXTENSION.—If at the end of the period in which the Attorney General authorizes electronic surveillance under paragraph (1), the Attorney General has submitted an application for an order under subsection (a) but the court referred to in section 103(a) has not approved or disapproved such application, such court may authorize the Attorney General to extend the emergency authorization of electronic surveillance under paragraph (1) for not more than 15 days.

“(B) SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION.—If at the end of the extension of the emergency authorization of electronic surveillance under subparagraph (A) the court referred to in section 103(a) has not approved or disapproved the application referred to in subparagraph (A), such court may authorize the Attorney General to extend the emergency authorization of electronic surveillance under paragraph (1) for not more than 15 days.

“(3) MAXIMUM LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), in no case shall electronic surveillance be authorized under this subsection for a total of more than 45 days without a court order under this title.

“(4) MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—The Attorney General shall ensure that any electronic surveillance conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) is in accordance with minimization procedures that meet the definition of minimization procedures in section 101(h).

“(5) INFORMATION, FACILITIES, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Pursuant to an authorization of electronic surveillance under this subsection, the Attorney General may direct a communications service provider, custodian, or other person who has the lawful authority to access the information, facilities, or technical assistance necessary to accomplish such electronic surveillance to—

“(A) furnish the Attorney General forthwith with such information, facilities, or technical assistance in a manner that will protect the secrecy of the electronic surveillance and produce a minimum of interference with the services that provider, custodian, or other person is providing the target of electronic surveillance; and

“(B) maintain under security procedures approved by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence any records concerning the acquisition or the aid furnished.

“(g) PROHIBITION ON LIABILITY FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.—Section 105(i), relating to protection from liability for the furnishing of information, facilities, or technical assistance pursuant to a court order under this Act, shall apply to this section.

“(h) EFFECT OF SECTION ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority under this section is in addition to the authority to conduct elec-

tronic surveillance under sections 104 and 105.

“(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

“(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 105 the following:

“Sec. 105A. Clarification of electronic surveillance of persons outside the United States.

“Sec. 105B. Additional procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.”.

(c) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), effective on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, sections 105A and 105B of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as added by subsection (a), are hereby repealed.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Any order under section 105B of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as added by this Act, in effect on such date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall continue in effect until the date of the expiration of such order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, SILVESTRE REYES, chairman of the Committee on Intelligence, and ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There probably is no Member in this body who has a greater concern about civil rights and civil liberties than this Member. It is a cause I have worked on for all of my years in this body, and it is one that goes to the very heart of the protections provided under the Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

I am equally sensitive to the need to protect our Nation from terrorism and terrorists. I have chaired recently three classified briefings on this mat-

ter in the last week and have spent the last period of time seeking to forge common ground on this issue.

That is why we are here today, to ensure that our government has the tools it needs to respond to the threat of terrorism, while at the same time respecting our citizens' right to privacy.

That is why the bill before us permits the Attorney General to apply to the FISA court to obtain a basket of warrants for the surveillance aimed outside of the United States. That is why we provide an emergency exception. That is why we specify that foreign-to-foreign communications do not require a court order. These are all changes to current law that will help our Nation respond to the threat of terrorism.

At the same time, however, the legislation is respectful of our civil liberties. That is why we sunset the bill in 4 months, to see if this stop gap approach is working, how it is working, and allow us to gather further information. That is why we require that the court approve international surveillance procedures. That is why we insist on periodic audits. None of these safeguards exist under the current law, and all will serve to protect our precious rights and liberties.

The bill before us today responds to each and every concern raised by the distinguished Director of National Intelligence in our negotiations. In particular, yesterday he asked us to make three changes: expanding the bill to cover foreign intelligence; allowing the administration to approve guidelines for recurring communications; and allowing additional foreign targets to be added to the warrant by the court. I was concerned that some of these changes may have gone too far, but in the spirit of accommodation we made all three changes. Sometimes people simply don't want to accept “yes” for an answer.

I urge every Member in this body to support this important and balanced measure.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD today's New York Times editorial entitled “Stampeding Congress, Again.”

[From the New York Times]

STAMPEDING CONGRESS, AGAIN

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bush administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it does not feel bound by the law or the Constitution when it comes to the war on terror. It cannot even be trusted to properly use the enhanced powers it was legally granted after the attacks.

Yet, once again, President Bush has been trying to stampede Congress into a completely unnecessary expansion of his power to spy on Americans. And, hard as it is to believe, Congressional Republicans seem bent on collaborating, while Democrats (who can still be cowed by the White House's with-us-or-against-us baiting) aren't doing enough to stop it.

The fight is over the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which requires the government to obtain a warrant before eavesdropping on electronic communications that involve someone in the United States. The test is whether there is probably cause

to believe that the person being communicated with is an agent of a foreign power or a terrorist.

Mr. Bush decided after 9/11 that he was no longer going to obey that law. He authorized the National Security Agency to intercept international telephone calls and e-mail messages of Americans and other residents of this country without a court order. He told the public nothing and Congress next to nothing about what he was doing, until *The Times* disclosed the spying in December 2005.

Ever since, the White House has tried to pressure Congress into legalizing Mr. Bush's rogue operation. Most recently, it seized on a secret court ruling that spotlighted a technical way in which the 1978 law has not kept pace with the Internet era.

The government may freely monitor communications when both parties are outside the United States, but must get a warrant aimed at a specific person for communications that originate or end in his country. The *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday that the court that issues such warrants recently ruled that the law also requires that the government seek such an individualized warrant for purely foreign communications that, nevertheless, move through American data networks.

Instead of asking Congress to address this anachronism, as it should, the White House sought to use it to destroy the 1978 spying law. It proposed giving the attorney general carte blanche to order eavesdropping on any international telephone calls or e-mail messages if he decided on his own that there was a "reasonable belief" that the target of the surveillance was outside the United States. The attorney general's decision would not be subject to court approval or any supervision.

The White House, of course, insisted that Congress must do this right away, before the August recess that begins on Monday—the same false urgency it used to manipulate Congress into passing the Patriot Act without reading it and approving the appalling Military Commissions Act of 2006.

Senator Jay Rockefeller, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, offered a sensible alternative law, as did his fellow Democrat, Senator Russ Feingold. In either case, the attorney general would be able to get a broad warrant to intercept foreign communications routed through American networks for a limited period. Then, he would have to justify the spying in court. This fix would have an expiration date so Congress could then dispassionately consider what permanent changes might be needed to FISA.

Congress was debating this issue yesterday, and the final outcome was unclear. But there are very clear lines that must not be crossed.

First, all electronic surveillance of communication that originates or ends in the United States must be subject to approval and review by the FISA court under the 1978 law. (That court, by the way, has rejected only one warrant in the last two years.)

Second, any measure Congress approves now must have a firm expiration date. Closed-door-meetings under the pressure of a looming vacation are no place for such serious business.

The administration and its Republican supporters in Congress argue that American intelligence is blinded by FISA and have seized on neatly timed warnings of heightened terrorist activity to scare everyone. It is vital for Americans, especially law-makers, to resist that argument. It is pure propaganda.

This is not, and has never been, a debate over whether the United States should conduct effective surveillance of terrorists and their supporters. It is over whether we are a

nation ruled by law, or the whims of men in power. Mr. Bush faced that choice and made the wrong one. Congress must not follow him off the cliff.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill should be opposed by anyone who wants to protect America from terrorists.

It is a pitiful sight to see the majority denying the Director of National Intelligence the tools he needs to protect our country from terrorist attacks. The director warned Congress that "the House proposal would not allow me to carry out my responsibility to provide warning and to protect the Nation, especially in our heightened threat environment."

According to the Director, the current Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, or FISA, does not allow the intelligence community to be effective. Specifically, the Director is unable to collect crucial information involving foreign terrorists.

Neither the Constitution nor Federal law restricts the ability of law enforcement or intelligence agents to monitor overseas communications; however, the bill would require the Director to obtain a court order to monitor calls from a foreign country to the United States. For instance, a foreign terrorist in Iraq who calls another terrorist in New York City would require or could require a court order. That jeopardizes American lives.

We are a Nation at war with foreign terrorists who continue to plan deadly attacks against America. We have an urgent need to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Telecommunications technology has evolved dramatically over the last 30 years. Terrorist tactics are constantly changing in response to our efforts to disrupt their plots, and essential tools that we use must be modernized to keep up with this changing environment.

The safety of Americans depends on action by Congress. Al Qaeda recently released a video promising a big surprise in coming weeks. This threat, along with other activity, has heightened the concern among our intelligence agencies. Unfortunately, this bill fails to provide the fix that the Director has repeatedly told us is urgent.

First, the bill sunsets in 120 days. In 4 months, we will be right back where we started, dealing with the issue once again.

Second, the bill imposes bureaucratic requirements on the FISA process that will hamper efforts to protect America.

Third, the bill will interject the FISA court into a role that it has never had before. The bill will make it harder for the Director to do his job.

The majority could have solved the problem months ago. In April, the Director submitted to Congress a comprehensive proposal to modernize FISA. That proposal should already

have been enacted. The majority failed to do so.

I hope, Madam Speaker, that there are no attacks before we revisit the issue and do what we should have done today. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, we are in times of peril for a great country. All of us I think agree on that.

As I listened to the previous debates, the one providing assistance to Minnesota and also the one discussing the resolution prior to us coming on the floor, I was reflecting on the many men and women around the world that right now are putting their lives on the line to keep this country safe. They don't do it for glory; they don't do it for fame. They do it with an inherent trust in us that we will do the right thing to provide them the proper tools to do their jobs and keep us safe. That is what this bill does.

Mike McConnell, the Director of the National Intelligence Service, came to us and asked us for three things initially.

We gave him those three things. He told us we were at a time of heightened threats. We recognize that; so we worked in a bipartisan manner with the DNI to craft a bill, only to be told that it wasn't everything that he needed, yesterday.

□ 1930

We can't afford to leave and go on recess without passing this critical piece of legislation. This piece of legislation that sunsets in 120 days gives him the tools that he needs to keep us safe and to keep the trust with those men and women around the world that expect us to do the right thing.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished minority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is clearly a critical debate. The spirit of the chairmen, Chairman REYES and Chairman CONYERS both, are exactly right in our need to solve this. My concern is that we're not in a place where we're about to solve it yet. The very worst thing I actually think we could do is pass a bill, have the Senate pass a separate bill, all go home and say we tried to solve this problem and didn't get it solved.

I'm most concerned, in this effort to get two-thirds of the Members to agree, that the Director of National Intelligence thinks this bill isn't the right bill and apparently our friends on the other side of the building are not in agreement yet that this is the right bill. I just say, whatever we do, let's not cast a vote here only so we can say we did something. Let's figure out how to do something that exactly makes a difference. Let's figure out how to do something that gets signed into law.

Let's figure out how to do something so that these enemies of ours, truly we're doing everything we can to listen to what they say, to try to track their actions, to try to anticipate what they're going to do.

This is clearly a very dangerous time for the country and the world. It's easier to follow up on the activities under our law of organized crime or even white collar crime than it is at this moment to follow up on the activities of our enemies in the terrorist camps of the world.

I hope, Madam Speaker, that we don't just take a vote for the sake of having a vote and, if this bill does fail, we all continue to work for however long is necessary to arrive at an agreement in this building that winds up with a bill on the President's desk that winds up with our intelligence agencies doing everything they can.

Mr. CONYERS. I am now pleased to recognize the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, the gentleman from New York, JERRY NADLER, for 1 minute.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, we were told by the administration, by the Director of National Intelligence, a couple of weeks ago that they needed two things: They needed to clarify that we didn't need a court order for a foreign-to-foreign communications. This bill does it. They needed an assurance that telecommunications companies would be compelled to assist in gathering of national security information under this bill. This bill contains it.

Yesterday, we were told they needed three more things: They needed that we should deal with not just relating to terrorism but to matters relating to our foreign intelligence. It's in this bill. We were told we should eliminate the requirement that the FISA Court adjudicate our recurring communications to the U.S. from foreign targets would be handled. It's in this bill. We were told that we should allow for foreign targets to be added to the basket warrant after the warrant was approved. It's in this bill.

The DNI, Admiral McConnell, said that this bill would significantly enhance America's security until he spoke to the White House, and now he changes politically, and he says we need more. This is the bill that gives them everything they said they needed. It's the bill we should pass to protect our civil liberties, and we should go no further.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, over the past three decades, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has become increasingly archaic, and our intelligence community has been inhibited from acting with speed and agility to conduct necessary surveillance of foreign targets. The consequence of missing terrorist

communications materialized before our eyes on the morning of 9/11; and, Madam Speaker, in the eyes of our enemy, 9/11 is only the beginning.

Madam Speaker, if we knew exactly where every terrorist in the world was at this moment, the war on jihad would be, in practical terms, over in about 6 weeks. However, in this 21st century, it is intelligence that is our most critical challenge. Without intelligence, our entire national defense structure is rendered ineffective and the lives of millions of Americans are placed at the mercy of an enemy possessed with a merciless ideology and a relentless vision of the Western World in nuclear flames.

Just this week, Madam Speaker, a new al Qaeda propaganda ad appeared on the Internet entitled, "Wait for the Big Surprise." And it closed with these words: "Soon, God willing."

Just today, Madam Speaker, the Director of National Intelligence issued an unequivocal statement that the bill we are now considering is an unacceptable solution and one that would keep him from fulfilling his duty to anticipate threats and to protect our Nation.

Madam Speaker, al Qaeda will not adjourn when we do. Today, this night, is our opportunity to address this vital issue. If we let partisan bickering cause us to fail, we should start now to write our apology to the children of the next generation who may see nuclear jihad and the generation beyond that that may see dangers beyond our imagination.

Madam Speaker, we must not fail.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, for some time now, for months, the administration has been contending that it needed relief from a warrant obligation to intercept communications between a foreign agent and a foreign agent. But we all know that doesn't apply. You don't need a warrant in those situations. So it has long been our contention that that wasn't needed and we did not need to approve the administration's sweeping request for the authority to tap every American citizen based on that premise. We offered legislation to just clarify that fact, and the Republicans voted against it, and the administration turned it down.

Now, last week, the DNI came forward and informed us of a critical collection gap in electronic surveillance. So we went to work again and met with the DNI to try to resolve and identify just what it was and negotiate a resolution. We did that despite the fact the administration has been withholding documentation that would help us do that.

But now the President has started to politicize it. He took to the airwaves and began pressing for essentially warrantless surveillance and searches

on all Americans' phone calls, e-mails, homes, offices and personal records for at least 3 months and probably a lot longer than that by virtue of heading all the way through the appeals process.

He also sought authority to search concerning a person abroad. Didn't even have to target a person abroad, a foreign person. In other words, the search did not have to be directed in that direction, just concerning a person abroad.

It would also authorize any search inside the United States if the government can claim it concerns an al Qaeda or affiliate.

And it also sought authority for the Attorney General to authorize surveillance into and out of the United States with a court review only to determine that the procedures of the Attorney General clearly were erroneous; and, even if they found that, it was only advisory, apparently, because there was no remedy. No review or audit by a Department of Justice Inspector General to see how this was implemented. No sunset provision forcing review. Essentially an indefinite suspension of our constitutional rights and our civil liberties. Based on the word of this Attorney General? This one? And this President?

Intercepts United States citizens without finding a foreign agent is involved; rather, only that the conversations were believed. By this Attorney General? To concern people that were involved with al Qaeda? For any foreign intelligence, not just those related to terror or al Qaeda-related. No clerk, no judge, nobody in the balance to review this. No sunset.

The rule of law is still critical in this country. It is exactly when the government thinks that it can be the sole fair arbiter that we most need a judicial system to stand in and strike the balance. Even after our leadership agreed to do what the DNI mostly wanted, this administration still turned it down, still was on TV, still politicizing this effort.

Let's tell the President that we don't need a politician right now in the White House, we need a leader, somebody to stand up and draw this country together, somebody to make sure that we get the intelligence we need, that knows how to say "yes" when the DNI's requests are done.

The President went on TV saying that when the DNI told him that the deal was acceptable, that the war would work, he would accept it. Well, when the DNI talked to Democrats and leadership and said he was fine with what they suggested, a change would work, he went back to the White House and instead we got this sweeping law.

Let's make our Constitution work. We can have security and our civil liberties.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my friend and colleague from Texas and a member of the Homeland Security Committee (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, our most solemn duty in the United States Congress is to protect the American people; and while this bill may be well intentioned, it fails to do that. In fact, just the opposite. It puts the American people in great danger.

Before running for Congress, I worked in the Justice Department. I worked on national security, wiretaps or FISAs. The intention of the FISA Act was never to apply to agents of a foreign power in a foreign country. It was to apply to agents of a foreign power in this country. This bill does just the opposite. It expands it to bar a collection of foreign intelligence on foreign targets in foreign countries.

FISA is a cumbersome and time-consuming process. I am concerned that if we cannot collect intelligence overseas that we cannot protect our war fighter in the battlefield. We put them in danger, and we put the citizens of this country in danger.

We all know that al Qaeda is looking at hitting us again. It may be very soon. And with the anniversary of 9/11 approaching, we must do everything we can to protect her.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the Chair of the Immigration subcommittee in the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, ZOE LOFGREN of California, 1 minute.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I think that there is common ground here in the House despite some of the comments we have just met. We all know from the press reports and Admiral McConnell himself that there is a need to make sure that we intercept communications, foreign to foreign, and I think there is 100 percent agreement in this House on that point. I would note that line 18 of the second page of the bill makes that abundantly clear.

We all know that, as technology changes, we need to continually update our laws to make sure that they work well in a changing environment. We have this bill for 120 days if we do, as we know we must, pass it. I think of that 120 days as an assignment for the Congress, so that we understand the technology, so that we can make good decisions.

This is a cell phone. If I bring this cell phone to London and call San Jose, the phone company knows I'm in London and the call is made to San Jose.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee (Mr. SHAD-EGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I think the gentlelady is correct. I think intellectually we could come to an agreement.

Sadly, the language of this bill is fatally flawed. Page 3, line 18, the language she refers to is not workable for

reasons that I think both sides understand. It says that no warrant is required when you know that both persons are outside the United States. It is impossible to know that both the person placing the call and the person receiving the call are outside the United States. So section 3 grants no authority whatsoever. You might as well make it blank paper, because it does not give us any authority, even if well-intended.

□ 1945

Second, the bill, for the first time in the 200-year history of this Nation, says that when our executive branch wants to gather foreign-to-foreign intelligence, it must first go to the judiciary. That is a violation of the Constitution, and it places the duty for protecting American citizens in the hands of unelected judges.

In reality in this Nation, the duty to protect us from enemies foreign and domestic is in the hands of the executive branch.

This legislation is fatally flawed, even if well intended.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding.

One of the characteristics of oppressive governments that we detest is that they spy on their own people. The chilling intrusion into people's lives, effects, and relationships must be controlled even if the government's officers think the intrusion is necessary to preserve safety, security, and order. Indeed, civil protections are necessary, especially if the government officers say they are trying to protect safety, security, and order.

Courts must establish that there is a probable cause to believe an American is a threat to society, and it must be the courts, not the Attorney General, not the Director of National Intelligence, who determine that the standard is met.

The issue here is not about foreign-to-foreign intercepts. It is about how our government treats its citizens.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), who is a member of both the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am dismayed to hear some suggest that Admiral McConnell would somehow yield to political pressure. This is the gentleman who was the NSA Director under President Clinton. I never heard that argument on that side of the aisle or this side of the aisle. Many of us relied on the intelligence that came through his activity at that point in time. I see nothing in his record, I see nothing in

his performance that would suggest that he would yield to politics.

He has come before us and said, We have tried to work under what is the legal construct that you are repeating in this bill, and it doesn't work. He has said it has denied him the opportunity to do that kind of foreign-to-foreign intelligence gathering because of the way the law is applied and because of the way the judge has interpreted it. And he even told us the judge said, Go to the Congress to change it.

You don't have to be against civil liberties to suggest that we listen to what he has to say. When he talks about the minimization procedure, it is a time-honored procedure we have used for 28 years in this context and for over 50 years in the criminal justice context.

If people will recall, when FISA was first written, it was specifically written to exclude international signals, intelligence activities, and electronic surveillance conducted outside the United States. What we used to grasp technologically then was never under FISA, he has said, because we take it technologically now in a different way. We shouldn't change it, because if we do that, it does not allow us to respond.

And why are we here? He has said openly, and it has appeared in print, because the chatter has increased to levels that are so serious, we need to act now.

Please, please don't deny what he has suggested to us. Let us pass a proper bill that can be effective.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to now yield 1 minute to the distinguished member of the Judiciary, Mr. ADAM SCHIFF.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There really is a lot of common ground in this debate. My friends on the minority side of the aisle want to make sure that when one foreigner is talking to another on foreign soil, that doesn't need to go through a FISA court, and we agree.

The only real area of disagreement is when we make an effort to surveil a foreign suspect, and whether inadvertently or advertently we capture the conversations of Americans, should there be court supervision. If the programs expand and, in fact, we capture the conversations of thousands of Americans, should there be some court oversight of that?

I think on a bipartisan basis the Members of this body feel there should be. The courts should be involved, the Congress should be involved when we are talking about the surveillance of Americans on American soil, whether they were the target or the incidental effect of that surveillance. And I also think that if we got three Members from our side of the aisle and three Members from yours and sat down with the admiral, in about an hour, we could hammer this out.

We ought to do supervision when Americans are surveilled. This bill provides that, and I urge its passage.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), a former chairman of the Armed Services Committee and now ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just say that I have examined and analyzed a number of battlefield situations and that this bill does not take care of a problem that we have with respect to accessing communications in time to take action in a meaningful way. Whether the insurgents are making a strike, moving people, moving equipment, moving hostages, those first few hours are what you might analogize as the golden hours, the time when you can make a difference. And right now we have a substantial delay on the battlefield that could have been fixed with this bill. It is not fixed with this bill, and I am deeply disappointed because of that. And I hope, my colleagues, that we can fix this in the near future.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS), who is also a member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I was an FBI agent and I worked organized crime in Chicago, and I did criminal title III work, which is equivalent to FISA on the intelligence side. I developed the sources. I did the debriefings. I did the surveillances. I did the interviews. I talked to lawyers. I talked to more lawyers. It is a very high standard to gain probable cause to listen to United States citizens' conversations. And it should be, and we should protect it. It should be that hard.

But I am going to tell you what we are going to do with this bill today. We are going to make it harder for us to go after terrorists who are trying to kill Americans than it was for me to go after organized criminals in Chicago. That is wrong.

And I think the intentions are right, but we did take the time to read the bill that we got this afternoon. There are some real problems with the language in here.

Number one is this whole thing was established so that we could be technology neutral. And I am just going to address the first paragraph. I think others are going to talk about other things. Because often you are referring to section 105 where it says a court order is not required for those who are not located in the United States. But if you read that whole paragraph, it's not technology neutral. You have set the bar beyond what our technology will be allowed in order to comply with the law.

It shouldn't matter if a terrorist is calling a terrorist from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. We shouldn't care how or what technology they use. It should not matter. If what you say that you don't care that foreign terrorists who

are talking to foreign terrorists, that we should not have to have a warrant, this language is wrong. It's wrong. And the people who have to follow the law tell us it's wrong.

If you honestly believe this, then let's sit down. The gentleman from California was right. In about an hour we could have this worked out. Everybody would be happy, and we could protect the citizens of the United States, not only their civil liberties at home but from the terrorists who are today planning attacks against the United States.

And we all know in a classified way the fact that this is not fixed has cost American lives.

No more screwing around. Let's sit down. Let's work it out. Let's get this right.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I want to relieve the tensions of my friend from Michigan. Foreign to foreign does not require a warrant. I don't know how many times I am going to have to say that. Foreign to foreign does not require a warrant.

The second thing that will make you much happier than you are now: Basket warrants authorized by the court make it easier to get warrants, not harder, Mr. ROGERS.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to JANE HARMAN from California, the former ranking member on the Intelligence Committee for many years.

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, only a few of us in this House are fully briefed on the terrorist surveillance program. It gives those who implement it incredible tools to find people who would harm us or to engage in unprecedented violations of Americans' constitutional rights for improper political or ideological reasons.

Most of this bill is not in dispute. But the key disagreement is whether a foreign surveillance program with unprecedented reach into the personal communications of terrorists or innocent Americans should be subject to supervision by an article III court. As you have just heard, that review comes in the form of a single warrant approving the contours of the program, called a "basket warrant." Our bill permits time to get that warrant while engaging in surveillance.

So a vote for our bill is a vote for sophisticated surveillance tools needed to catch terrorists and a vote to assure that those tools are not abused. I urge its bipartisan support.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), a member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the Director of National Intelligence came to the Congress in April and told us that we were not listening to things we needed to be listen-

ing to, that we had a problem. And since then we have had numerous hearings, most of them in closed session, about the scope and scale of this problem. And it is worse than we ever thought it was. And, Ms. HARMAN, I would tell you it is much worse than when you served on the committee.

He said, in open session in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, "We are missing a significant portion of what we should be getting."

It is imperative that we solve this problem before we leave here.

This morning without any agreement, without any prior discussion, the Democrats' leadership introduced the bill we are considering tonight. There is no agreement on the text with Republicans in the House; there is no agreement with the Senate, Democrat or Republican; and there is no agreement with the Director of National Intelligence or with the President. In fact, the Director of National Intelligence had not seen the bill until after we were discussing the rule here on the floor.

I rise today to oppose this legislation. I must oppose it because it doesn't solve the problem that we must solve. And, in fact, it makes it worse.

The Director of National Intelligence told us this afternoon in writing that "The House proposal is unacceptable and I strongly oppose it." He also said, "The House proposal would not allow me to carry out my responsibility to provide warning and to protect the Nation."

This bill will not allow our Director of National Intelligence, who has 40 years of experience in this field, the former Director of the National Security Agency under President Clinton, it would not allow him to carry out his duties to protect this Nation. We are going in the wrong direction.

□ 2000

I would urge my colleagues to reject this bill before us tonight; and I would urge the Speaker, Ms. PELOSI, to bring another bill to the floor of this House that can be supported by the Senate, by the Republicans, by the Democrats and by our intelligence community and signed by the President so we can close this intelligence gap.

But what does it matter? Why should people care? We all remember where we were the morning of 9/11 and who we were with, what we were wearing, who we called first, who we checked on. You never remember the crisis that doesn't happen because it's prevented by good intelligence.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. I thank our distinguished chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

I have listened very, very intently to the discussion on the floor this evening, as well as the news programs that have covered the debate about the

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, as well as participated in the many, many hearings and discussions at the House Intelligence Committee as a member of that committee and feel very privileged to have done so.

I can't help but think of those whose shoulders we stand on, our predecessors in the House of Representatives in the Congress of over 200 years. Would any of them, would any of them for a moment accuse another Member of not wanting to fully protect the Nation that we are sworn to protect and the Constitution that we are sworn to uphold? That's what this debate is about.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was born in 1978. And the reason our predecessors, Republicans and Democrats, set down this law was because of the abuses of those high in our government at that time, Richard Nixon. And Republicans and Democrats in the Congress as well as Republican and Democratic Presidents have honored the law, but they have also seen fit to change it, from 1978 on, to fit the needs of this great Nation.

And so to talk about blood on someone's hands, that there are some that do not love and want to protect this country does not deserve to be debated or even stated in this House. We all take the same oath. We all take the same oath. And when we take that oath, we say "to defend the Constitution of the United States." That is the steel of our Nation. The flag that is behind us is the heart of our Nation, but the Constitution is the soul of our Nation.

And so, in all of this we say "rule of law." This is not to cheapen FISA. This is not, as the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, making fun of attorneys and saying we're sending it off to people that are going to quibble. We are talking about the rule of law.

The Democratic leadership last night gave the principles to the DNI, Director of National Intelligence, last night. Something happened after that, and it's not satisfactory. But we will not turn over to an Attorney General who has misled the Congress, who has now made a hospital visit famous, who came to the Hill and lobbied for torture, we are not going to give over what we believe should dictate all of this, and that is the rule of law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), who is also a member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. MCHUGH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I hadn't intended to speak; and I didn't intend to because, right now, the hearts and minds of the 10th Mountain Division family, which includes the district that I represent, are focused on two soldiers who are classified as "missing, captured." And there has been speculation in the press recently whether or not FISA had some application, and I didn't want to cloud

that water. But I thought that those soldiers, whatever the circumstances may be related to their condition, would want us to do everything that we could to defend what they fought for, that is, the future, the ability of this country to prosper as the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

I have been listening to the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, a friend of mine, a gentleman and a leader, who said, "This bill gives most of those things that the DNI wanted." I listened to my friend, JERRY NADLER, the gentleman from New York, a colleague of mine in both the State legislature and here: "Most of." This is not a "most of" situation, Madam Speaker. This is a situation where we have to give what the war fighters need to protect them in the field.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to recognize the chairman of the Crime Subcommittee on Judiciary, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, BOBBY SCOTT, for 1 minute.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it would be better to consider complicated wiretap laws in the process with committee consideration, public hearings, markups, and consider amendments with more than just 1 minute of discussion, but we have been told that there is an urgent need for clarification in the wiretap law.

Now, all of those clarifications are in this bill, especially the foreign-to-foreign communications. This bill honors our Constitution and provides the government all of the flexibility that we were told was needed, but it does not leave the decision of when wiretaps are allowed to the imagination of this Attorney General.

The secret FISA court is appropriately involved. It does not restrict the ability of law enforcement to engage in appropriate surveillance, but it does respect our Constitution. We should adopt this very limited clarification in the law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, once again, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes; the gentleman from Texas has 1 minute; the gentleman from Michigan has 1 minute, 5 seconds.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), who is also the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The great track record about the FISA bill designed and passed in 1978 was that the intent was to protect American civil liberties, and it has done a very effective job of protecting American civil liberties.

Nowhere in this debate over the last week, over the last number of months has about there been allegations that FISA did not work. There was a technical problem with FISA because tech-

nology has moved and evolved and the law did not. So the question becomes, take a look at the bill. If we're really intent on protecting Americans, read some sections of the bill.

"We require basket warrants for various targets, various countries." How many baskets are we going to put out there and are we going to require the DNI to prepare to bring to the court?

And then take a look at what they require to put into the basket. Does this help protect Americans, where we say the DNI needs to go to a court and provide a description of the nature of the information sought for the various baskets, the China basket, the North Korea basket, the al Qaeda basket, the Syria basket?

What happens if we outline the type of intelligence we want to gather and we're gathering it and we get something else? Do we need to minimize that? That is a ridiculous requirement.

The bill goes on and it says, "a statement of the means by which the electronic surveillance will be effected." This is going to the Court and saying, you need to identify all over the world how you are going to collect intelligence. There are certain intelligence collection methods that only two Members of this House may be aware of. Does that help keep America safe?

This is a bad bill. It protects terrorists, not Americans.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield the remaining time to the distinguished majority leader from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As has been stated on this floor, this is an extraordinary and important development and even more important issue.

I want to comment first on the involvement of Mr. REYES, Mr. CONYERS, myself, the Speaker, and others. I have met on at least three occasions with my friend, Mr. BLUNT. Every time we made a draft, I took it to him and discussed it with him. This was not something that I thought ought to be done on a partisan basis.

I talked to the Director of National Intelligence on at least five different occasions individually and then in a conference call with Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator LEVIN, Mr. REYES, Mr. REID, the Speaker and myself. We talked over a number of hours. The conversation did not last hours. From time to time, we hung up and the DNI went to contact people.

Mr. Speaker, we have spent a substantial amount of time trying to reach what our Founding Fathers wanted us to reach, and that was a balance of power, a balance of making sure that our country was secure and making sure that our individuals were secure. That's what our Founding Fathers were all about. They didn't want King George knocking on the door and coming in just because he wanted to come in. They thought that King George needed to be restrained. So

they set up a separation of powers, they set up a judiciary and they set up a Constitution, and 10 amendments thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, our highest duty, as Members of this body, is to defend our Nation, protect our people and uphold the Constitution of the United States, as we've talked about. And one has to be thoughtful in doing that because, at times, it would appear that those three duties may be in conflict with one another. It is our job to harmonize those to accomplish all three objectives. That is, we have a duty to keep this Nation safe from those who seek to harm us.

And let there be no doubt, there are terrorists who seek to harm us. They have harmed us. They are people that we need to stop. They are people that we need to identify. They are people whom we need to act against. And, yes, a duty to ensure that our government abides by the principles upon which it was founded.

In 1978, as has been said, this Congress enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in an effort to balance these critical interests. It is with these principles in mind that we bring this bill to the floor to immediately fill the intelligence gap described to Congress by the Director of National Intelligence.

Among other things, this legislation clarifies that no court order is required, as has been said over and over and over again, to intercept and conduct surveillance on foreign-to-foreign communications that pass through the United States. That's a new technological reality, because that switch is here and so we needed to accommodate that.

The Director of National Intelligence discussed that with us. We made a change in the legislation that was proposed to accommodate that, and he was positive with respect to that change. I do not say he supported that change; I say he was positive.

It reiterates that individual warrants based on probable cause are required when surveillance is directed at people within the United States, not incidental contacts but directed at people in the United States.

It provides for an initial 15-day emergency authority so that international surveillance may begin immediately, so that we can empower the DNI to act now, and it allows for up to two 15-day extensions while the court considers the approval of surveillance procedures.

□ 2015

No one should be surprised that this majority is concerned about the actions of the administration after the last 4 years. The courts have been concerned. And the courts have acted because they did not believe that the administration was acting consistently with the duty to uphold and protect the laws and Constitution of this country.

That ought to be a serious concern. Frankly, it ought to be a very serious concern for those who label themselves conservatives, who have historically been the most outspoken in their fear of Government exercise of power and their concern for the constraint on the use of that power.

Our legislation also compels the cooperation of communications carriers during emergency periods, while it extends liability protection to those who assist in this intelligence-gathering effort. This was a very important provision. We understood that. It is controversial. But we thought it was important.

The legislation also requires the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to conduct an audit every 60 days of communications involving Americans that are intercepted under "basket warrants," because we know those basket warrants are going to be just that, broad-reaching, because we wanted to give the DNI the authority to reach broadly and not be slowed down bureaucratically by individual requests. But we also thought that we needed to protect those individuals with an aftercheck, if you will, by the Inspector General. We think that is fair. We think conservatives ought to be for that. We think liberals ought to be for that. We think the American people are for that.

Finally, the legislation provides that these provisions sunset in 120 days, because it is imperative that we consider issues of this magnitude in a thoughtful manner.

We have been working hard. I said how often I have talked to the DNI, how often I have been in meetings, and how recently I was in meetings with the DNI. It is imperative that we consider these issues consistent with the magnitude that they present, not only for the safety of our people, but for the integrity of our Constitution and laws.

Now, some will say this bill doesn't go far enough. That may be so. And we ought to thoughtfully consider that in the months ahead as the committee, the ranking member, Republicans and Democrats, consider the permanent laws that may be put in place.

Many of them support the administration's proposal, which would permanently authorize warrantless surveillance and searches of American's telephone calls, e-mails, homes, offices and personal records for at least 3 months and for however long an appeal to the Court of Review in the Supreme Court takes, as long as the search is, and I quote, "concerning a person abroad."

In fact, the administration's proposal practically eliminates the role of the FISA court. That, of course, is the administration's intent. We understand that. The administration, in fact, undertook the TSP program, the Terrorist Surveillance Program, outside the ambit of the check and balance that we contemplated when we adopted the legislation.

Madam Speaker, we have spent hours with the Director of National Intel-

ligence and worked hard to give him the tools that were requested. The DNI asked that we expand the language in the bill from "relating to terrorism" to the much broader "relating to all foreign intelligence." I support that change. I want to make sure that the DNI has a broad reach and view. So that is in this bill.

The DNI asked that we eliminate the requirement that the FISA court adjudicate how recurring communications into the United States from foreign targets would be handled, and we agreed to that change.

Madam Speaker, in closing, let me tell the Members that yesterday in that conference call I asked the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral McConnell, this question: Does this legislation improve or not the situation you find yourself in? I quote you his answer to me just about 24 hours ago. This legislation, which has been so harshly analyzed, I quote the Director of National Intelligence: "It significantly enhances America's security."

That is a quote. It is a direct quote. I do not imply that he said he supported it. And we have a very harsh statement from him that we just got a few hours ago. I will tell you, it doesn't sound like the Admiral McConnell with whom I have talked over the past few weeks.

Madam Speaker, the administration truly seeks a temporary fix to the FISA statute. This legislation provides one.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this important legislation. There are some on my side who believe it goes too far. There are some on your side that believe it goes not far enough. But it is, I suggest to you, a compromise that we can make that, as in the words of the Director of National Intelligence, significantly enhances our national security.

Madam Speaker, I urge the support of this legislation.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the honorable Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for championing civil liberties in our country for such a long, long time. I want to express my admiration and respect for you, Mr. CONYERS, as the distinguished Chair of the Judiciary Committee. And to the distinguished Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, Mr. REYES, congratulations to you for this excellent work. It is difficult, because we have to balance security and liberty. Two great patriots have brought this bill to the floor. Mr. REYES, you have served our country in many capacities to secure our country, and you are doing so in your capacity as Chair of the Intelligence Committee.

Madam Speaker, in my service in Congress I have had the privilege of

-serving on the Intelligence Committee longer than anyone, 10 years as a member directly and now my fifth year ex officio as leader and now Speaker of the House.

I considered it a service to our country that was important to our national security. I salute the men and women who serve our country in the intelligence community for their bravery and for their patriotism.

Congress has always for many years had a special interest in intelligence. We all recognize that we want our President and our policymakers to have the best possible intelligence. We want to do so in a way, though, that again balances liberty and security. We want to use every tool at our disposal to collect the intelligence that we need, again, to protect the American people, but we must do so under the law. That is what we are talking about here tonight.

In 1978, it was recognized that Congress had a role, the checks and balances, in determining how our intelligence was collected, analyzed and disseminated. Those are the three aspects of intelligence. Tonight, we are talking largely about collection.

In 1978, when the FISA law was passed, we were in a different era. It is clear that as it established Congress' rights in this arena and the checks and balances necessary to protect the American people, we also have to recognize today that technology is vastly different than it was at that time. So Congress has always stood willing, in a bipartisan way, to make amendments to the FISA act that would reflect the change in technology.

If anything in what we do should be nonpartisan, it is intelligence. It should be analyzed in a way that has no political approach to it, and the laws governing it should be written in a nonpartisan way.

That is why so many of us worked so closely, the distinguished Chairs of the committees of jurisdiction, Judiciary and Intelligence, including the majority leader, who just spoke, we worked closely with the Senate leadership, with the administration, trying to work in a bipartisan way to meet the needs of the American people.

As Mr. HOYER indicated, and I won't go into it in detail, this involved a series of communications, both in person, on the telephone and otherwise, with the Director of National Intelligence. He presented to us, as I believe Congresswoman HARMAN has indicated and the chairmen have indicated, he presented us his three must-have provisions in the FISA law, and we wrote a bill that reflected, in fact echoed, the request of the Director of National Security.

When we sent that to him, he came back and said, I have additional changes that I am requesting, and we accommodated them as far as we could under the balance of liberty and security.

As Mr. HOYER said, when we asked in the presence of the majority leader in

the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Chairs of the intelligence committees, House and Senate, and Armed Services from the Senate, the Director of DNI, that group of people gathered said that our bill would make us significantly safer. It was a positive contribution, as the leader said. Not that he endorsed the bill, because by then the administration had a different approach.

It made it seem for some time, why we were going back and forth with this, trying to accommodate the DNI. I know that he was negotiating in good faith. I hope that he will accept what we are proposing in that same good faith.

Some of the things that have been rejected since those conversations, but I hope will reappear in the Senate bill, are to diminish the role of the Attorney General in the decision-making on this. We have always said that there would be a third branch of government, the courts, to issue the warrants. The discretion in this situation is now given to the Attorney General.

Without any reference to the current Attorney General, and there will be some who might question his judgment, I don't want Alberto Gonzales to have this much power, but in a Democratic administration, I would not want that Attorney General to have this much power. It should be a different branch of government.

So we have seen them come up with these pieces of legislation that substitute the Attorney General for the FISA courts. It is just totally unacceptable.

While we are trying to address the emergency concerns of the Director of National Intelligence, we know we will have a bigger bill down the road to go into some other issues of concern, but without the same urgency. That is why this legislation must be sunsetted, because no matter how you look at it, it gives extraordinary power to the administration beyond the intent of the FISA law, and certainly outside the values of our Founding Fathers, to balance liberty and security.

Having made the changes to our proposal that respond to each of the Director's concerns and having him describe our proposal as a significant improvement in his current capabilities, I would have expected that he would be leading the charge for this bill's passage.

□ 2030

That is not happening, but that does not mean that this bill is inadequate. The judgment of the Director of National Intelligence stands. He knew to whom he was speaking that evening, and he was clear in his assessment.

All of us in Congress want to do everything within our power to protect the American people from terrorism. As I say, as a 15-year member of the Intelligence Committee, both as a member and ex officio, I know full well and sadly the threats to our country. I

know full well the capabilities that we have and some that we need. Every person, as Congresswoman HARMAN said, every person in this body is fully committed, is fully committed to collecting the intelligence that we need to protect the American people. But we must do it under the law, and sometimes that's where we differ.

You will hear our colleagues stand on this floor and say, terrorist to terrorist in foreign lands, the Democrats don't want you to collect on them; and they want to make you have a warrant to do it.

When I hear my colleagues say that, I think either they don't know or they don't care about the truth. Because that is patently untrue. And it has always been a mystery to me about this House of Representatives that somebody can misrepresent the facts, some would call, I don't like the word "lie," but if you said they were lying, your words would be taken down. And yet misrepresentations about the intentions of Members of this body are being made here tonight that simply are not true.

So let's put that aside and talk about how we can work together to honor the needs of our people, to recognize the changes in technology and to honor the oath of office that we take here to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States as we protect and defend the American people.

I urge a "yes" vote on this important legislation.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield the remaining time that I have to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have listened to the debate this afternoon and I only have these few words of a message. One great patriot said, "Give me liberty or give me death."

I want to say to this body, the majority that I happen to be a part of will never endanger the American people. We have given to the DNI what he has asked for, but, most importantly, we have given to the American people their liberty, and we now give them their life. We protect them. Terrorists will not get away from us. This bill will protect the American people. I ask my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3356, the Improving Foreign Intelligence Surveillance to Defend our Nation and Our Constitution Act. I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. REYES and Mr. CONYERS for their leadership on this important issue.

This important legislation addresses the intelligence gap identified by Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell, by amending the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. Madam Speaker, FISA has served the nation well for nearly 30 years, placing electronic surveillance inside the United States for foreign intelligence and counter-intelligence purposes on a sound legal footing.

This legislation contains a number of crucial provisions. It clarifies that no court order is required for foreign-to-foreign communications that pass through the United States. It reiterates that individual warrants, based on probable cause, are required when surveillance is directed at people in the United States. This legislation requires the Attorney General to submit procedures for international surveillance to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for approval, and it allows the Court to issue a "basket warrant" without requiring the Court to make individual determinations about foreign surveillance. It provides for an initial 15-day emergency authority so that international surveillance can begin while the "basket warrant" is submitted to the Court. It allows for congressional oversight, requiring the Department of Justice Inspector General to conduct an audit every 60 days of U.S. person communications intercepted under the "basket warrant," to be submitted to the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees. Finally, this is a short-term legislative fix, sunseting in 120 days.

In terms of the President's warrantless surveillance programs, there is still nothing on the public record about the nature and effectiveness of those programs to indicate that they require a legislative response, other than to reaffirm the exclusivity of FISA and insist that it be followed. This is accomplished by H.R. 5371, the "Lawful Intelligence and Surveillance of Terrorists in an Emergency by NSA Act, LISTEN Act," which I have co-sponsored last Congress with the Ranking Members of the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, Mr. CONYERS and Ms. HARMAN.

There is still nothing on the public record about the nature and effectiveness of the President's warrantless surveillance programs to indicate that they require a legislative response, other than to reaffirm the exclusivity of FISA and insist that it be followed. This could have been accomplished last Congress by H.R. 5371, the "Lawful Intelligence and Surveillance of Terrorists in an Emergency by NSA Act" (LISTEN Act)," which I was proud to have cosponsored last Congress with the then-Ranking Members of the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, Mr. CONYERS and Ms. HARMAN.

The Bush administration has not complied with its legal obligation under the National Security Act of 1947 to keep the Intelligence Committees "fully and currently informed" of U.S. intelligence activities. Congress cannot continue to rely on incomplete information from the Bush administration or revelations in the media. It must conduct a full and complete inquiry into electronic surveillance in the United States and related domestic activities of the NSA, both those that occur within FISA and those that occur outside FISA.

The inquiry must not be limited to the legal questions. It must include the operational details of each program of intelligence surveillance within the United States, including: (1) who the NSA is targeting; (2) how it identifies its targets; (3) the information the program collects and disseminates; and most important; (4) whether the program advances national security interests without unduly compromising the privacy rights of the American people. Given the unprecedented amount of information Americans now transmit electronically and the post-9/11 loosening of regulations governing information sharing, the risk of inter-

cepting and disseminating the communications of ordinary Americans is vastly increased, requiring more precise—not looser—standards, closer oversight, new mechanisms for minimization, and limits on retention of inadvertently intercepted communications.

Madam Speaker, this temporary legislative fix addresses the gap identified by Director McConnell. The Majority of both the House and the Senate have set aside partisan differences to work for the security of our Nation. We must ensure that our intelligence professionals have the tools that they need to protect our Nation, while also safeguarding the rights of law-abiding Americans. This is important legislation, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. Despite the claims of those who support the Administration, this measure does nothing to protect those overseas who intend to do us harm. Instead, it is an important and vital effort to clarify the role of the FISA Court in light of advances in communications technology. As every member of the intelligence committee knows, the FISA Court already supervises aspects of foreign intelligence collection. The bill keeps the FISA Court engaged at the programmatic level, while ensuring that the Administration does not need individual warrants for foreign targets.

The administration's proposal would cut the court out of the process and let the Attorney General decide when American's liberties are infringed. Our legislation establishes meaningful, independent judicial oversight by the FISA Court. It protects America without sacrificing our civil liberties.

Our legislation is the responsible course, and I urge a YES vote.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation—H.R. 3356.

The Global War on Terrorism—the Long War—is the first conflict of the information age. With our technical assets and expertise, the United States is far better at gathering information than our enemies. This is an advantage we must exploit each and every hour of the day to better protect the American people from terrorists who are plotting against us at this very moment. We must never lose that technological edge!

Last year, this House passed the Electronic Surveillance Act seeking to update the Foreign Intelligence Act (FISA) of 1978. That bill took into account 21st century technological developments which enable our intelligence agencies to spy on terrorists who may be planning the next attack.

For example, the current FISA law (1978) covers only "wire" and "radio" communications. FISA is a pre-internet, pre-cell phone law. It's a living anachronism! A dinosaur.

That reform bill never became law and since that time various developments have further eroded our intelligence capabilities.

The wording of the outdated FISA law and a court ruling earlier this year prevents our counterintelligence people from listening in on terrorists overseas if that communication is somehow routed thru "nodes" in the United States.

In our effort to "connect-the-dots" to prevent the next attack, this is a huge problem! The Director of National Intelligence has stated unequivocally that we continue to miss significant

amounts of information that we should be collecting.

Simply put—we should be fully protecting the American people, and we are not.

The Democratic Leadership has known about these failures and has failed to act to correct them.

Madam Speaker, it is critically important that this Congress immediately reform the FISA.

Intelligence is our first line of defense against terrorists. Good intelligence can save American lives—our soldiers in the war zones and our fellow citizens here at home.

During this summer of heightened threat warnings, there is no more important priority for this Congress today than to modernize FISA—fully and completely.

The lives of our constituents depend on it. Unfortunately, H.R. 3356 falls short in several specific areas and actually erects new burdens for our counterintelligence personnel as they work to keep Americans safe.

It is opposed by the Director of National Intelligence.

I, too, oppose this legislation.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are debating critical legislation that would update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This law must be updated to allow American agencies to listen to foreigners in foreign countries without a warrant. Like many of my colleagues, I believe that this is crucial to our national security. We must remain on the offense, and updating FISA will help us prevent future terrorist attacks.

Just yesterday, the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement urging Congress to make changes to FISA so we may protect American families. He said, "We must urgently close the gap in our current ability to effectively collect foreign intelligence. The current FISA law does not allow us to be effective. Modernizing this law is essential for the intelligence community to be able to provide warning of threats to the country."

Congress must act immediately to ensure that our intelligence community can do their job successfully. They should not be forced to obtain court orders that hinder them from learning of terrorist threats. We must ensure that those who help our Government and report suspicious activity are protected. I urge my colleagues to act now and help keep your constituents and our country safe from impending terrorist attacks.

I have said many times on the floor of the House of Representatives that I have not forgotten September 11th. I urge my colleagues to act now to protect American families. We must face our enemies overseas so we do not have to face them here at home. Let's enact commonsense real reform that gives our intelligence officers the tools they need to effectively protect us.

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am extremely concerned about our national security and deeply troubled that our intelligence community has been prevented from doing the job they need to protect Americans. For that reason I strongly oppose H.R. 3356 as it will only further tie the hands of our intelligence community.

The latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) clearly states that we are at risk of an attack. We have all read the reports this week about the very real concerns that our enemies intend to attack the in the next month or so.

Police forces in the nation's capital have beefed up security in response to these perceived threats. But without good intelligence, they will not know when or how we may be attacked—never mind having a chance to thwart any plots. Due to Democrat undermining of our intelligence of our intelligence community and our military for the past couple of years—through leaks and political games—we are less prepared to uncover terrorist plots and prevent such attacks.

We need to fix the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) so that the intelligence community can do its job. The American people know we need to fix the loopholes in FISA implementation that allow terrorists to bypass our intelligence capabilities. For several months Administration and Republican Leadership have repeatedly asked the Democrats to address this problem, and they have ignored these requests.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence I have been very disturbed by what I have seen this past year. The vitriol that Members on the other side of the aisle have for the President has clouded their judgment. In an effort to embarrass him, they have weakened our intelligence gathering capabilities and caused long term damage to the security of this nation. We do not monitor phone conversations, emails or finances of suspected terrorists and terrorist allies as we used to and the enemy knows it. It is time for us to strengthen, not weaken, terrorist surveillance.

Unfortunately this bill does not address the needs of the intelligence community. The Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell is strongly opposed to this bill:

I have reviewed the proposal that the House of Representatives is expected to vote on this afternoon to modify the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The House proposal is unacceptable, and I strongly oppose it.

The House proposal would not allow me to carry out my responsibility to provide warning and to protect the Nation, especially in our heightened threat environment.

I urge Members of Congress to support the legislation I provided last evening to modify FISA and to equip our Intelligence Community with the tools we need to protect our Nation.

I trust the DNI far more than the Democrat leadership that has clearly chosen to put politics over security. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and encourage the majority to bring a true FISA reform bill before this body so that the intelligence community can have every tool at its disposal to protect the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3356.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 207, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 821]

YEAS—218

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez

NAYS—207

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany

Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha

Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holt
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Issa
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)

NOT VOTING—8

Clarke
Crenshaw
Davis, Jo Ann

Hayes
Johnson, Sam
LaHood

□ 2058

Paul
Waxman

Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Petri
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Waters
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. WEINER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

No (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I have a privileged resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 612

Whereas clause one of House rule XXIII (Code of Official Conduct) states, "A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer or employee of the House shall conduct himself at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House,";

Whereas the House Ethics Manual states that, "The public has a right to expect Members, officers and employees to exercise impartial judgment in performing their duties" and "This Committee has cautioned all Members to avoid situations in which even an inference might be drawn suggesting improper action;

Whereas during proceedings of the House on August 3, 2007, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) presiding, a question occurred on approval of the Journal of the previous day's proceedings;

Whereas following the vote, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Representative Sensenbrenner, inquired "Could the chair tell me how many Members rose to request a recorded vote and [the] total number of Members present in the House upon which the chair made his decision?";

Whereas Representative Murtha replied, "It is up to the chair. Let me tell you this, the vote will show that the approval would be approved by the House as it has been.";

Whereas the Speaker, as the presiding officer, has a duty to be a fair and impartial arbiter of the proceedings of the House, held to the highest ethical standards in deciding the various questions as they arise with impartiality and courtesy toward all Members, regardless of party affiliation;

Whereas a presiding officer of the House cannot achieve the requisite standard of impartiality while attempting to influence the outcome of a vote, predict the outcome of a vote, or express a preference for a particular outcome of a vote;

Whereas when the chair imbues his parliamentary statements with a partisan hue or with language more appropriate to a participant in the debate than to its presiding officer, Members' essential confidence in the impartiality of the chair is impaired: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That by his actions on August 3, 2007, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Murtha, has brought dishonor and discredit to the United States House of Representatives by misusing the powers of the chair.

□ 2100

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I move to table the resolution.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I raise a point of order that the gentleman from Maryland engaged in debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BOEHNER. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, isn't it correct that the gentleman from Maryland engaged in debate, which allows the House to then proceed with up to 1 hour of debate on this resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman was not recognized as the Chair had not yet ruled that the resolution constituted a question of privilege.

The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 178, answered "present" 12, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 822]

YEAS—211

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLahunt
DeLauro
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowe
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeke (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Holt
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—178

Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly

Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Walsh (NY)
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—12

Bartlett (MD)
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Hobson
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Kingston
LoBiondo
Rohrabacher
Wicker
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—31

Blumenauer
Boren
Clarke
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cummings
Davis, Jo Ann
Dicks
Edwards
Gordon
Gutierrez
Hare
Hayes
Higgins
Hunter
Johnson, Sam
LaHood
Lamborn
Lantos
McDermott
Moore (VA)
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Paul
Peterson (MN)
Radanovich
Sestak
Shuster
Slaughter
Stark
Waxman

□ 2119

Mr. LOBIONDO changed his vote from "nay" to "present."

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-298) on the resolution (H. Res. 613) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-299) on the resolution (H.

Res. 614) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3221, NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2776, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-300) on the resolution (H. Res. 615) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2776) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 775. An act to establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States; to the committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1983. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to renew and amend the provisions for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found a truly enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3206. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 15, 2007, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1. An act to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

S. 375. An act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education

Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

S. 975. An act Granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

S. 1099. An act to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance.

S. 1716. To amend the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, to strike a requirement relating to forage producers.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 270, nays 121, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 823]

YEAS—270

- Abercrombie Cramer Inslee
Ackerman Crowley Israel
Aderholt Cuellar Issa
Alexander Davis (AL) Jackson (IL)
Allen Davis (CA) Jackson-Lee
Altmire Davis (IL) (TX)
Andrews Davis, Lincoln Jefferson
Arcuri Davis, Tom Johnson (GA)
Baca DeFazio Johnson, E. B.
Baird DeGette Jones (NC)
Baldwin Delahunt Jones (OH)
Barrett (SC) DeLauro Jordan
Barrow Dent Kagen
Bartlett (MD) Diaz-Balart, L. Kanjorski
Bean Diaz-Balart, M. Kaptur
Becerra Dingell Keller
Berkley Doggett Kennedy
Berman Doyle Kildee
Bishop (GA) Dreier Kilpatrick
Bishop (NY) Ellison Kind
Bishop (UT) Emanuel Klein (FL)
Blumenauer Emerson Knollenberg
Bono Engel Kucinich
Boswell Eshoo Kuhl (NY)
Boucher Etheridge Langevin
Boustany Farr Larsen (WA)
Boyd (FL) Fattah Larson (CT)
Boyd (KS) Peeney Lee
Brady (PA) Ferguson Levin
Bralley (IA) Filner Lewis (GA)
Brown, Corrine Frank (MA) Lipinski
Brown-Waite, Frelinghuysen Loeback
Ginny Gerlach Lotgren, Zoe
Buchanan Gilchrest Lowey
Burton (IN) Gillmor Lynch
Butterfield Gonzalez Mack
Buyer Granger Mahoney (FL)
Camp (MI) Green, Al Maloney (NY)
Capps Grijalva Manzullo
Capuano Hall (NY) Marchant
Cardoza Harman Markey
Carnahan Hastings (FL) Marshall
Carson Hastings (WA) Matheson
Castle Heller Matsui
Castor Hergert McCarthy (CA)
Chabot Herseht Sandlin McCaul (TX)
Chandler Hill McCollum (MN)
Clay Hinchey McGovern
Cleaver Hinojosa McHugh
Clyburn Hirono McIntyre
Cohen Hodes McKeon
Conyers Holden McMorris
Cooper Holt Rodgers
Costa Honda McNerney
Costello Hooley Meek (FL)
Courtney Hoyer Meeks (NY)

- Michaud Reyes Spratt
Miller (NC) Rodriguez Stearns
Miller, Gary Rogers (AL) Stupak
Miller, George Rogers (KY) Sullivan
Mitchell Ros-Lehtinen Sutton
Moore (KS) Roskam Tancred
Moore (WI) Ross Tanner
Murphy (CT) Rothman Tauscher
Murphy, Patrick Roybal-Allard Taylor
Nadler Ruppertsberger Thompson (CA)
Napolitano Rush Thompson (MS)
Neal (MA) Ryan (OH) Tierney
Nunes Ryan (WI) Towns
Oberstar Salazar Udall (NM)
Obey Sanchez, Linda Van Hollen
Oliver T. Velazquez
Ortiz Sanchez, Loretta Visclosky
Pallone Sarbanes Walberg
Pastor Schakowsky Walz (MN)
Payne Schiff Wamp
Pence Scott (GA) Wasserman
Perlmutter Scott (VA) Schultz
Peterson (MN) Sensenbrenner Waters
Peterson (PA) Serrano Watson
Petri Shays Weiner
Pickering Shea-Porter Welch (VT)
Pomeroy Sherman Wexler
Porter Shuster Whitfield
Price (NC) Simpson Wicker
Pryce (OH) Sires Wilson (NM)
Radanovich Skelton Wilson (OH)
Ramstad Smith (NJ) Wilson (SC)
Rangel Smith (WA) Woolsey
Regula Snyder Wynn
Rehberg Solis Yarmuth
Reichert Space

NAYS—121

- Akin Franks (AZ) Murphy, Tim
Bachmann Gallegly Myrick
Bachus Garrett (NJ) Neugebauer
Barton (TX) Giffords Pascarell
Berry Gillibrand Pearce
Biggert Pitts
Bilirakis Gohmert Platts
Blackburn Goode Poe
Blunt Goodlatte Price (GA)
Bonner Graves Putnam
Boozman Green, Gene Rahall
Broun (GA) Hall (TX) Renzi
Brown (SC) Hastert Reynolds
Burgess Hensarling Rogers (MI)
Calvert Hobson Rohrabacher
Campbell (CA) Hoekstra Royce
Cannon Hulshof Sali
Cantor Inglis (SC) Schmidt
Capito Jindal Schwartz
Carney Johnson (IL) Sessions
Carter King (IA) Shadegg
Coble King (NY) Shuler
Cole (OK) Kingston Smith (NE)
Conaway Kline (MN) Souder
Culberson Lamborn Terry
Davis (KY) Latham Thornberry
Davis, David LaTourette Tiahrt
Deal (GA) Lewis (CA) Tiberi
Donnelly Lewis (KY) Turner
Drake LoBiondo Udall (CO)
Duncan Lungren, Daniel Upton
Ehlers E. Walden (OR)
Ellsworth McCarthy (NY) Walsh (NY)
English (PA) McCotter Watt
Everett McHenry Weller
Fallin Melancon Westmoreland
Flake Mica Wolf
Forbes Miller (FL) Wu
Fortenberry Miller (MI) Young (AK)
Fossella Mollohan Young (FL)
Foxy Moran (KS)

NOT VOTING—41

- Baker Gutierrez McNulty
Billbray Hare Moran (VA)
Boehner Hayes Murtha
Boren Higgins Musgrave
Brady (TX) Hunter Paul
Clarke Johnson, Sam Saxton
Crenshaw Kirk Sestak
Cubin LaHood Shimkus
Cummings Lampson Slaughter
Davis, Jo Ann Lantos Smith (TX)
Dicks Linder Stark
Doolittle Lucas Waxman
Edwards McCrery Weldon (FL)
Gordon McDermott

So the motion to adjourn was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, August 4, 2007, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2873. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules Relating to Permissible Uses of Official Seal (RIN: 3038-AC42) received June 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2874. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — United States Standards for Sorghum (RIN: 0580-AA91) received July 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2875. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Black Stem Rust; Addition of Rust-Resistant Varieties [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0072] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2876. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cattle for Export; Removal of Certain Testing Requirements [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0147] (RIN: 0579Z-AC26) received July 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2877. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Areas [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0151] received July 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2878. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Idaho [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0097] received July 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2879. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dimethenamid; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0165; FRL-8138-2] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2880. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Diflufenzuron; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0446; FRL-8136-7] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2881. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Glufosinate-ammonium; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0313; FRL-8137-4] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2882. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Penoxsulam (2-(2,2-difluoroethoxy) -N-(5,8-dimethoxy[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidin-2-yl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonamide; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0076; FRL-8137-7] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2883. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenazaquin, 4-tert-butylphenethyl Quinazolin-4-yl Ether; Pesticide Import Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0075; FRL-8141-3] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2884. A letter from the Director, Education Activity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the public-private competition for bus service in the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2885. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John M. Curran, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2886. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report regarding progress in building interagency capacity for national security missions, pursuant to Section 1035 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, Pub. L. 109-364; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2887. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of draft legislation, "To establish a program to revitalize rural multi-family housing"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2888. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7719] received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2889. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7717] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2890. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adjustable Rate and Home Equity Conversion Mortgages-Additional Index [Docket No. FR-4969-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI32) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2891. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Management Official Interlocks [Docket ID OTS-2007-0013] (RIN: 1550-AC09) received July 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2892. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a draft bill that seeks to modernize the Treasury Tax and Loan (TT&L) statute; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2893. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Ireland pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2894. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Brazil pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2895. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R-1291] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2896. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Office's final rule — Amendments to Rules Regarding Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (RIN: 3235-AJ58) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2897. A letter from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

2898. A letter from the Acting Director/PDRA-RUS/USDA, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program (RIN: 0572-AC02) received July 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2899. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Subject to Certification; D&C Black No. 3 [Docket No. 1995C-0286 (formerly Docket No. 95C-0286)] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2900. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Interim Final Regulation for Mental Health Parity [CMS-4094-F5] (RIN: 0938-AO83) received July 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2901. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — High Risk Pools [CMS-2260-IFC] (RIN: 0938-A046) received July 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2902. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in the Regulation of Iodine Crystals and Chemical Mixtures Containing Over 2.2 Percent Iodine [Docket No. DEA-257F] (RIN: 1117-AA93) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2903. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems [Docket No. NHTSA 2007-28694, Notice 1] (RIN: 2127-AJ90) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2904. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled, "Guidance for Evaluating the Oral Bioavailability of Metals in Soils

for Use in Human Health Risk Assessment"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2905. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule Deadline for Authorized Programs [EPA-HQ-OEI-2003-0001; FRL-8449-8] (RIN: 2025-AA07) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2906. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Kentucky; Redesignation of Boyd County, Kentucky Portion of the Huntington-Ashland 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment for Ozone [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0362-200702; FRL-8449-5] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2907. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0541; FRL-8449-6] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2908. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Iowa; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0347; FRL-8450-1] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2909. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0620; FRL-8450-5] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2910. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-061; FRL-8450-7] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2911. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Clean Air Interstate Rule Sulfur Dioxide Trading Program [EPA-R06-OAR-2006-0849; FRL-8442-8] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2912. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-0610; FRL-8448-6] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2913. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval of Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0459; FRL-8450-3] received July 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2914. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation; North Dakota; Revisions to New Source Review Rules [(EPA-R08-OAR-2006-0502), FRL-8441-9] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2915. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule Revising the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-0236; FRL-8444-3] received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2916. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 1.80(b)(1) of the Commission's Rules Increase of Forfeiture Maxima for Obscene, Indecent, and Profane Broadcasts to Implement The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 [EB-06-IH-2271] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2917. A letter from the Acting Legal Advisor to the Chief/WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules [WP Docket No. 07-100] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2918. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — FPA Section 203 Supplemental Policy Statement [Docket No. PL07-01-000] received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2919. A letter from the Principal Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Market-Based Rates for Wholesale Sales of Electric Energy, Capacity and Ancillary Services by Public Utilities [Docket No. RM04-7-000; Order No. 697] received July 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2920. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 08-07 informing of an intent to sign the Information Assurance Research Collaboration Agreement between the United States and Argentina, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2921. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2922. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Antiboycott penalty guidelines [Docket No. 0612242577-7145-01] (RIN: 0694-AD63) received July 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2923. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No. 070611188-7189-01] (RIN: 0694-AE07) received August 2, 2007, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2924. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Governments of Russia, Ukraine, and Norway (Transmittal No. DDTC 071-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2925. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Russia (Transmittal No. DDTC 072-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2926. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 068-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2927. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Human Rights Report for International Military Education and Training Recipients," in accordance with Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2928. A letter from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2006 Annual Report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2929. A letter from the Director for Civil Rights, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2006 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2930. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2931. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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2961. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2962. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Mgmt., Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2963. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's final rule — Cost Accounting Standards Board (CAS); Applicability of Cost Accounting Standards Coverage — received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2964. A letter from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2965. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Various Administrative Changes to the USAID Acquisition Regulations (AIDAR) (RIN: 0412-AA60) received June 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2966. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A for Fiscal Years 2005 Through 2007, as of March 31, 2007"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2967. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Letter Report: Review of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C Grant Awards for the Period March 2005 through December 2006"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2968. A letter from the Chair, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's report regarding State governments' expenditures of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds from December 31, 2006 through September 30, 2006; to the Committee on House Administration.

2969. A letter from the Chair, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2005-2006"; to the Committee on House Administration.

2970. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2971. A letter from the Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a draft bill which would amend the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2972. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XB33) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2973. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area to General Category Scallop Vessels [Docket No. 060314069-6069-01] (RIN: 0648-XA84) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2974. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 060824226-6322-02] (RIN: 0648-AV69) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2975. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Deep-water Species Fishery by Catcher Processor Rockfish Cooperatives in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XB12) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2976. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "Patent Law Treaty Implementation Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2977. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Rules [Docket No.: PTO-T-2005-014] (RIN: 0651-AB56) received August 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2978. A letter from the Controller, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, transmitting the Audited Financial Statements of NSDAR for the Fiscal Year ending February 28, 2007, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1102; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2979. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Lido Key, Sarasota County, Florida, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2980. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Atlantic Ocean, Ocean City, MD [CGD05-07-016] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2981. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Delaware River, Delaware City, DE [CGD05-07-020] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2982. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Sail Virginia 2007; Port of Hampton Roads, VA [CGD05-07-012] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2983. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Recovery of Aircraft, Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, WI. [CGD09-07-032] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2984. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Charles River and its tributaries, Boston, MA [CGD01-07-058] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2985. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Long Island, New York Inland Waterway from East Rockway Inlet to Shinnecock Canal, Jones Beach, NY. [CGD01-07-046] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2986. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Long Island, New York Inland Waterway from East Rockway Inlet to Shinnecock Canal, Jones Beach, NY. [CGD01-07-045] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2987. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Long Island, New York Waterway from East Rockway Inlet to Shinnecock Canal, Hempstead, NY. [CGD01-07-044] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2988. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Oper-

ation Regulations; Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and their tributaries, NJ. [CGD01-07-056] received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2989. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BART Transbay Tube Seismic Upgrade; San Francisco, California [COTF San Francisco Bay 07-025] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2990. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Roostertail Fireworks, Detroit River, Detroit, MI. [CGD09-07-021] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2991. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Celebrate America Fundraiser Fireworks, Lake St. Clair, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. [CGD09-07-030] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2992. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Riverfest 2007, Connecticut River, Hartford, CT. [CGD01-07-064] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2993. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sand and Sea Festival Fireworks Display, Salisbury, Massachusetts. [CGD01-07-043] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2994. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Beverly Homecoming Fireworks, Beverly, Massachusetts. [CGD01-07-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2995. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Chicago Harbor, Navy Pier East, Chicago, IL. [CGD09-07-007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2996. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Annual events requiring safety zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan zone. [CGD09-07-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2997. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Chicago Harbor, Navy Pier Southeast, Chicago, IL. [CGD09-07-006] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2998. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Milwaukee Harbor, Milwaukee, WI. [CGD09-07-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2999. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Town of Weymouth Fourth of July Celebration Fireworks, Weymouth, Massachusetts. [CGD01-07-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3000. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Town of Lynn Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Nahant Bay, Massachusetts [CGD01-07-031] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3001. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Mercyhurst College "Old Fashion 4th of July" Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [CGD09-07-034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3002. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Independence Day Fireworks Display, St. Lawrence River, Alexandria Bay, NY [CGD09-07-043] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3003. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; City of Richmond July 3rd Fireworks Show, San Francisco Bay, CA [COTF San Francisco Bay 07-027] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3004. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Boston Pops Fireworks, Boston, Massachusetts [CGD01-07-072] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3005. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Lake Tahoe Independence Day Celebration, Lake Tahoe, CA and Lake Tahoe, NV [COTF San Francisco Bay 07-020] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3006. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Foundation Amistad Fireworks, East Hampton, NY [CGD01-07-079] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3007. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Independence Day Celebration Fireworks [CGD01-07-037] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3008. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Salem Harbor Celebrates the 4th of July Fireworks — Boston, Massachusetts [CGD01-07-073] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3009. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Hingham 4th of July Fireworks Display, Hingham, Massachusetts [CGD01-07-036] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3010. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; York River, Yorktown, VA [CGD05-07-031] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3011. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Rappahannock River, Essex County, Westmoreland County, Layton, Virginia [CGD05-07-017] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3012. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Town of Marblehead Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Marblehead Harbor, Massachusetts [CGD01-07-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3013. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors, Baltimore, MD [CGD05-07-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3014. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's summary and detailed breakdown of the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during the 2006 calendar year, pursuant to section 707 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3015. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Marshalltown, IA. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27679; Airspace Docket No. 07-ACE-4] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3016. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Middlesboro, KY. [Docket

No. FAA-2007-27262; Airspace Docket No. 07-ASO-1] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3017. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Hugoton, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27838; Airspace Docket No. 07-ACE-6] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3018. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Dean Memorial Airport, NH [Docket No. FAA-2007-28010, Airspace Docket No. 07-ANE-91] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3019. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26120; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-184-AD; Amendment 39-15051; AD 2007-10-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3020. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Model R44 and R44 II Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2006-26696; Directorate Identifier 2006-SW-19-AD; Amendment 39-15058; AD 2007-11-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3021. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Model 228 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27295 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-013-AD; Amendment 39-15060; AD 2007-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3022. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Reims Aviation S.A. Model F406 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-26973 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-002-AD; Amendment 39-15061; AD 2007-11-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3023. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28100; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-103-AD; Amendment 39-15045; AD 2007-10-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3024. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6-80C2B Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-25738; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-27-AD; Amendment 39-15085; AD 2007-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3025. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness

Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27348; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-015-AD; Amendment 39-15078; AD 2007-11-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3026. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate No. A00010WI previously held by Raytheon Aircraft Company) Model 390 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28251; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-049-AD; Amendment 39-15099; AD 2007-12-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3027. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF34-10E Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-26585; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-44-AD; Amendment 39-15087; AD 2007-12-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3028. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Red Dog, AK [Docket No. FAA-2006-26396; Airspace Docket No. 06-AAL-40] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3029. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Marshalltown, IA. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27679; Airspace Docket No. 07-ACE-4] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3030. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Front Royal-Warren County, VA [Docket No. FAA-2007-27512, Airspace Docket No. 07-AEA-01] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3031. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Canby, MN. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27676; Airspace Docket No. 07-AGL-2] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3032. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Port Heiden, AK [Docket No. FAA-2007-27222; Airspace Docket No. 07-AAL-02] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3033. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Kodiak, AK [Docket No. FAA-2007-27221; Airspace Docket No. 07-AAL-01] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3034. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30549 Amdt. 3217] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3035. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30548 Amdt. No. 3216] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3036. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operations: Surge Brake Requirements [Docket No. FMCSA-2005-21323] (RIN: 2126-AA91) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3037. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Model AT-602 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26775; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-01-AD; Amendment 39-15042; AD 2007-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3038. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S-76A, B, and C Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2007-28241; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-07-AD; Amendment 39-15062; AD 2007-11-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3039. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A340-211, -212, -311, and -312 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28354; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-245-AD; Amendment 39-15086; AD 2007-12-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3040. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28369; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-076-AD; Amendment 39-15088; AD 2007-12-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3041. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Monticello, IA. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27678; Airspace Docket No. 07-ACE-3] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3042. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Manhattan, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2007-27677; Airspace Docket No. 07-ACE-2] received August 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3043. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revised Compliance Dates under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulations and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations [EPA-HQ-OW-2005-0036; FRL-8444-8] (RIN: 2040-AE92) received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3044. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a

copy of a draft bill to clarify the requirements for special monthly pension based on age and disability; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3045. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "Agent Orange Equitable Compensation Act"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3046. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program [Notice 2007-52] received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3047. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 1.707-1: Transactions between partner and partnership. (Rev. Rul. 2007-40) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3048. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Change to Office to which Notices of Non-judicial Sale and Requests for Return of Wrongfully Levied Property must be sent. [TD 9344] (RIN: 1545-BG24) received July 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3049. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Entry of Taxable Fuel [TD 9346] (RIN: 1545-BC08) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3050. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Repayment of Commodity Credit Corporation Loans [Notice 2007-63] received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3051. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2007-44) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3052. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1248 Attribution Principles [TD 9345] (RIN: 1545-BA93) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3053. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Return Required by Subchapter T Cooperative Under Section 6012 [TD 9336] (RIN: 1545-BF82) received July 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3054. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — AJCA Modifications to the Section 6112 Regulations [TD 9352] (RIN: 1545-BE28) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3055. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — AJCA Modifications to the Section 6111 Regulations [TD 9351] (RIN: 1545-BE26) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3056. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — AJCA Modifications to the Section 6011 Regula-

tions [TD 9350] (RIN: 1545-BE24) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3057. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Qualified Severance of a Trust for Generation-Skipping Transfer (GST) Tax Purposes [TD 9348] (RIN: 1545-BC50) received August 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3058. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revised Regulations Concerning Section 403(b) Tax-Sheltered Annuity Contracts [TD 9340] (RIN: 1545-BB64) received July 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3059. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of draft legislation entitled, "Healthy Forests Partnership Act"; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

3060. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report to Congress for the Office For Civil Rights, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education Organization Act; jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and the Judiciary.

3061. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for FY 2008 [CMS-1545-F] (RIN: 0938-AO64) received August 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3062. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2008 Rates [CMS-1533-FC] (RIN: 0938-AO70) received August 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3063. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 [CMS-1551-F] (RIN: 0938-AO63) received August 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3064. A letter from the Inspector General, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting the July 2007 Quarterly Report pursuant to Section 3001(i) of Title III of the 2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan (Pub. L. 108-106) as amended by Pub. L. 108-375, Pub. L. 109-102, Pub. L. 109-364, Pub. L. 109-440, and Pub. L. 110-28; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

3065. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "Veterans' Pride Initiative Act"; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services.

3066. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "To amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes"; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Natural Resources.

3067. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "To amend the R.M.S. Titanic Maritime Memorial Act of 1986 to implement the International Agreement Concerning the Shipwrecked Vessel RMS Titanic"; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2786. A bill to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans (Rept. 110-295). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2337. A bill to promote energy policy reforms and public accountability, alternative energy and efficiency, and carbon capture and climate change mitigation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-296 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 2635. A bill to reduce the Federal Government's contribution to global warming through measures that promote efficiency in the Federal Government's management and operations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-297 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 613. A resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 110-298). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 614. A resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 110-299). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WELCH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 615. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy infrastructure, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2776) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation (Rept. 110-300). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GORDON: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 1933. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize and improve the carbon capture and storage research, development, and demonstration program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-301). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GORDON: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 2773. A bill to enhance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of biofuels related technologies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-302). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GORDON: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 2774. A bill to support the research, development, and commercial application of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-303). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3236. A bill to promote greater energy efficiency (Rept. 110-304 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3237. A bill to facilitate the transition to a smart electricity grid (Rept. 110-305 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3238. A bill to promote the development of renewable fuels infrastructure, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-306 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3239. A bill to promote advanced plug-in hybrid vehicles and vehicle components (Rept. 110-307 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3240. A bill to enhance availability of critical energy information (Rept. 110-308). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3241. A bill to clarify the amount of loans to be guaranteed under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-309 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Agriculture and Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2337 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2635 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3236 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3237 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Science and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3238 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3239 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3241 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KLEIN of Florida (for himself and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3355. A bill to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance coverage for catastrophic events; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. REYES (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. FLAKE):

H.R. 3356. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WICKER):

H.R. 3357. A bill to reauthorize the National Writing Project; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 3358. A bill to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and to ensure the expansion of clean nuclear power in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance our domestic energy security; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CANNON):

H.R. 3359. A bill to limit the authority of States and localities to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States and localities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BEAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SESTAK, and Ms. SUTTON):

H.R. 3360. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the concurrence of all bordering States when a permit for the discharge of pollutants into one of the Great Lakes is issued; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCCREERY, and Mr. MCKEON):

H.R. 3361. A bill to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself and Mr. CANTOR):

H.R. 3362. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow 5-year amortization of goodwill and other section 197 intangibles that are acquired from a small business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. WELLER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr.

LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. PORTER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. HOOLEY):

H.R. 3363. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow long-term care insurance to be offered under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements and to provide additional consumer protections for long-term care insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 3364. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow parents of murdered children to continue to claim the deduction for the personal exemption with respect to such child; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 3365. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the effect of reclassifying certain nonattainment areas adjacent to an international border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 3366. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Department of Defense and all other defense-related agencies of the United States to fully comply with Federal and State environmental laws, including certain laws relating to public health and worker safety, that are designed to protect the environment and the health and safety of the public, particularly those persons most vulnerable to the hazards incident to military operations and installations, such as children, members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and persons living in the vicinity of military operations and installations; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 3367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to assist in the recovery and development of the Virgin Islands by providing for a reduction in the tax imposed on distributions from certain retirement plans' assets which are invested for at least 30 years, subject to defined withdrawals, under a Virgin Islands investment program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself and Mr. BRADY of Texas):

H.R. 3368. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pulmonary hypertension clinical research network, to expand pulmonary hypertension research and training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. POE):

H.R. 3369. A bill to provide compensation for United States citizens taken hostage by terrorists or state sponsors of terrorism; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama):

H.R. 3370. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality

and efficiency of health care, to provide the public with information on provider and supplier performance, and to enhance the education and awareness of consumers for evaluating health care services through the development and release of reports based on Medicare enrollment, claims, survey, and assessment data; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 3371. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program and to re-allocate those visas to certain employment-based immigrants who obtain an advanced degree in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FARR, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 3372. A bill to establish a public education and awareness program relating to emergency contraception; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CASTLE):

H.R. 3373. A bill to catalyze change in the care and treatment of diabetes in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SPACE:

H.R. 3374. A bill to improve the ability of small communities to coordinate with universities and design professionals in developing a vision to address their local needs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HERGER (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELLS, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. REYNOLDS):

H.R. 3375. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ARCURI:

H.R. 3376. A bill to enhance witness protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACA (for himself and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 3377. A bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Arnold

Palmer in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 3378. A bill to establish a demonstration loan program for nontraditional students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. BORDALLO (by request):

H.R. 3379. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include the Territory of Guam in the list of affected areas with respect to which claims relating to atmospheric nuclear testing shall be allowed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOREN:

H.R. 3380. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 3381. A bill to terminate the national security waiver that has been used to deny the payment of the high-deployment allowance to members of the Armed Forces serving lengthy or numerous deployments since September 11, 2001, and to extend the allowance to members who have been deployed since that date in excess of the rotation frequencies for reserve component members of one year mobilized to five years demobilized and for regular component members of one year deployed to two years at the permanent duty station, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WATT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 3382. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CASTLE:

H.R. 3383. A bill to require internal ethics compliance programs by Department of Defense contractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHANDLER:

H.R. 3384. A bill to expand the Project Safe Neighborhoods program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. CARSON, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3385. A bill to establish a task force to examine homelessness in the United States and make recommendations to alleviate the causes and effects of such homelessness; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. ARCURI):

H.R. 3386. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for transporting the corpses of homicide victims across State lines with intent to prevent their use as evidence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 3387. A bill to update and improve the codification of title 46, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. KUHLMANN of New York):

H.R. 3388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the deduction for tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. HERGER):

H.R. 3389. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the election to treat the cost of qualified film and television productions as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 3390. A bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 3391. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to expand family and medical leave for spouses, sons, daughters, and parents of servicemembers with combat-related injuries; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 3392. A bill to clarify the tariff classification of certain fiberboard core and laminate boards and panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. ALTMIRE):

H.R. 3393. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve veterans' reemployment rights under chapter 43 of such title, to exempt claims brought under that chapter from arbitration under chapter 1 of title 9 of such Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Ms. CASTOR):

H.R. 3394. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assist underperforming schools to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified and effective teachers by providing grants for participation in the Targeted High Need Initiative program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Ms. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. ROTHMAN):

H.R. 3395. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the

committee concerned.

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 3396. A bill to promote simplification and fairness in the administration and collection of sales and use taxes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3397. A bill to amend the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 to define environmental intervention blood lead level; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3398. A bill to establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3399. A bill to prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of any pesticide containing atrazine; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUCINICH (for himself and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 3400. A bill to fund capital projects of State and local governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 3401. A bill to establish the National Infrastructure Bank to provide funding for qualified infrastructure projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 3402. A bill to require accurate and reasonable disclosure of the terms and conditions of prepaid telephone calling cards and services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GORDON:

H.R. 3403. A bill to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encouraging the nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 3404. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 3405. A bill to require persons to certify that they have not violated foreign corrupt practices statutes before being awarded Government contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HARE, Mr. HINOJOSA,

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FILNER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HOLT, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 3406. A bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students exit the middle grades prepared for success in a high school with an academically rigorous curriculum that prepares students for postsecondary education and the workplace; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HARE (for himself, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3407. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow State and local educational agencies and schools to make greater use of early intervening services, particularly schoolwide positive behavior supports; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 3408. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Ms. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA,

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. STARK, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3409. A bill to create the conditions, structures, and supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 3410. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude overtime pay from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CLAY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. STARK, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. SOLIS):

H.R. 3411. A bill to improve the treatment of juveniles with mental health or substance abuse disorders by establishing new grant programs for increased training, technical assistance, and coordination of service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MACK,

Mr. PITTS, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. AKIN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LINDER, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 3412. A bill to repeal the wage rate requirements commonly known as the Davis-

Bacon Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KLINE of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 3413. A bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KLINE of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. SOUDER):

H.R. 3414. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend eligibility for Federal TRIO programs to members of the reserve components serving on active duty in support of contingency operations; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 3415. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the placement in a national cemetery of memorial markers for the purpose of commemorating servicemembers or other persons whose remains are interred in an American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the United States domestic energy supply; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3417. A bill to establish the Commission on the Tax Treatment of Hedge Funds and Private Equity; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WELLER, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 3418. A bill to provide for a permanent exclusion from gross income for employer-provided educational assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. HARE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BARROW, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 3419. A bill to establish an Office of Specialized Instructional Support Services in the Department of Education and to provide grants to State educational agencies to reduce barriers to learning; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California:

H.R. 3420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the use of Feder-

ally insured intermediaries for nonrecognition treatment on like-kind exchanges involving cash to be used to acquire the replacement property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 3421. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit universal defaults on credit card accounts and to require minimum payment disclosures for accounts under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 3422. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that certain tenants are able to return to affordable housing after a major disaster; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. ARCURI):

H.R. 3423. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 3424. A bill to authorize appropriations for the purpose of establishing an office within the Internal Revenue Service to focus on violations of the internal revenue laws by persons who are under investigation for conduct relating to commercial sex acts, and to increase the criminal monetary penalty limitations for the underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3425. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage of screening for breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 3426. A bill to modify certain amendments made by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 3427. A bill to prohibit the revocation of waivers of the competitive need limitation under the Generalized System of Preferences program unless certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3428. A bill to bridge the digital divide in rural areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3429. A bill to authorize a competitive grant program to assist members of the National Guard and Reserve and former and current members of the Armed Forces in securing employment in the private sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr.

BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. GILCHREST, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3430. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 3431. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. LEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 3432. A bill to establish the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WAMP, and Ms. HOOLEY):

H.R. 3433. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, to conduct a survey of research available on methamphetamine addiction and treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.R. 3434. A bill to provide for the issuance of bonds for the benefit of the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PICKERING:

H.R. 3435. A bill to improve energy security of the United States through a reduction in the oil intensity of the economy of the United States and expansion of secure oil supplies, to be achieved by increasing the

availability of alternative fuel sources, fostering responsible oil exploration and production, and improving international arrangements to secure the global oil supply, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science and Technology, Natural Resources, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REYES:

H.R. 3436. A bill to provide for greater judicial discretion in sentencing for certain firearms offenses committed in exceptional circumstances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

H.R. 3437. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 3438. A bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to authorize the use of grant funds for gang prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 3439. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to create a demonstration project to fund additional secondary school counselors in troubled title I schools to reduce the dropout rate; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FILNER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. POE, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 3440. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide both State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 3441. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize competitive grants to train school principals in instructional leadership skills and to promote the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State-level principal certification or licensure; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr.

CANNON, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FORTUÑO, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RENZI, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SALI, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 3442. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are fully informed regarding the pain experienced by their unborn child; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. HERGER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 3443. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the provisions relating to drawback for exported merchandise; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 3444. A bill to extend tax relief to the residents and businesses of an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1711-DR) by reason of severe storms and flooding beginning on June 26, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

H.R. 3445. A bill to establish the Weather Mitigation Operations and Research Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 3446. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

202 East Michigan Avenue in Marshall, Michigan, as the "Michael W. Schragg Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mrs. CAPPs, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 3447. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the independence of the Surgeon General from political interference; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WAXMAN:

H.R. 3448. A bill to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances in order to protect the climate and stratospheric ozone layer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 3449. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide eligibility for reduced non-regular service military retired pay before age 60, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HARE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. GRJALVA, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 3450. A bill to provide grants to universities and colleges for the development of student success services that will improve college persistence and prepare students for the workplace; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the requirement of the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Supreme Court for any pardon or reprieve granted by the President; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. BERMAN):

H. Con. Res. 202. Concurrent resolution noting the absence of human rights as a topic of discussion in the U.S.-Saudi Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and urging the President to include this subject in working level discussions with Saudi counterparts; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HOYER:

H. Res. 609. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 610. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Government should take immediate steps to boycott the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing in August 2008 unless the Chinese regime stops engaging in serious human rights abuses against its citizens and stops supporting serious human rights abuses by the Governments of Sudan, Burma, and North Korea against their citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 611. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. WEINER, Mrs.

GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HODES, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 612. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

H. Res. 616. A resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of Phoenix House, the success and contributions of Phoenix House with respect to the treatment and prevention of substance abuse, and the significant role that Phoenix House has played in raising public awareness and formulating public policy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H. Res. 617. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. SOLIS):

H. Res. 618. A resolution recognizing the importance of addressing the plight of Afro-Colombians; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALI (for himself, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. MACK):

H. Res. 619. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that whenever a bill or joint resolution is introduced that amends existing law, the sponsor provide to the Clerk an electronic version of a comparative print, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. SIREN (for himself, Mr. BILLRAKIS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SPACE, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York):

H. Res. 620. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Turkey should end its military occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, particularly because Turkey's pretext has been refuted by over 13,000,000 crossings by Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots into each other's communities without incident; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WATERS:

H. Res. 621. A resolution recognizing the community development block grant program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and its role as the Nation's largest and most visible source of financial assistance to support State- and local government-directed neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and economic development activities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

161. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 212 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to revise the National Flood Insurance Program to extend coverage for other natural disasters; to the Committee on Financial Services.

162. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to forgive stu-

dent loans of college graduates who move to Louisiana to support activities to rebuild and revitalize communities damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Rita; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

163. Also, a memorial of the General Court of the State of New Hampshire, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 urging the Congress of the United States to amend the No Child Left Behind Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

164. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 274 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to ensure that all-terrain vehicles sold in the United States meet mechanical equipment standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and that safety information and training are being provided to all purchasers of all-terrain vehicles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

165. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 258 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to examine the provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide prenatal care to immigrants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

166. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 106 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to ensure the passage of the Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

167. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Delaware, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19 urging the Congress of the United States to end the practice of "smokestack chasing"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

168. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Resolution No. 18 urging the Congress of the United States to pass legislation establishing a Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearinghouse in the National Archives; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

169. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 107 memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide assistance and relief for Louisiana's commercial fishing industry through emergency supplemental appropriations; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

170. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 memorializing the Congress of the United States, the President of the United States, and the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force to fulfill their commitment to address the problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

171. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 251 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to grant an extension to Louisiana with regard to the deadline for implementing the provisions of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and federal guidelines adopted pursuant thereto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

172. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 176 memorializing the Congress of the United States to instruct the United States Army Corps of Engineers

to take such actions as are necessary to include pump station repairs and safe house construction in St. Bernard Parish as a part of the projects authorized for funding under the provisions of Public Law 109-234, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

173. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to expedite the Federal Emergency Management Agency's provision of advance funding for expenses for hurricane response projects covered by Project Worksheets submitted by local governments and to do everything possible to provide for the adequate and speedy completion of such projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

174. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to create a federal catastrophe fund; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

175. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 68 memorializing the Congress of the United States to fulfill the commitment to the citizens of Louisiana to fully fund recovery from damages resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

176. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 270 urging the reinstatement of federal ocean water quality testing program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

177. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 223 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to provide the same tax breaks and federal financial assistance to Louisiana residents affected by Hurricane Rita as those afforded to Louisiana residents affected by Hurricane Katrina; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

178. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 195 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to extend the deadline to take advantage of certain tax relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma, which relief was originally granted pursuant to the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 and the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

179. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 13 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to give tax relief to small businesses which provide health insurance for their employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

180. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 217 urging the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to increase, for social security beneficiaries, the levels of provisional income, which include social security benefits, by an amount equal to the federal cost of living allowance granted to federal employees in Hawaii; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

181. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 247 memorializing the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to create a unified Urban

Area Security Initiative zone for Camden and Philadelphia area; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

182. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to either extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) to include insurance coverage for natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes or, alternatively, to establish a tax incentive program for insurance companies that provide insurance coverage for natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Ways and Means.

183. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 2007 urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation giving tribal governments jurisdiction over telecommunications services on tribal lands; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GUTIERREZ introduced a bill (H.R. 3451) for the relief of Teresa Figueroa; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 44: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 154: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. LAHOOD.
 H.R. 193: Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 246: Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 321: Mr. HOEKSTRA.
 H.R. 333: Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 358: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 367: Mr. PLATTS.
 H.R. 368: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 369: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 371: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 406: Mr. WATT.
 H.R. 411: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 428: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 464: Mr. HODES.
 H.R. 506: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
 H.R. 507: Mr. HARE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 524: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 550: Mrs. BACHMANN.
 H.R. 552: Mr. KANJORSKI.
 H.R. 583: Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 619: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 623: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 643: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 693: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 694: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 715: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 741: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 748: Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 756: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 760: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 869: Mr. SHULER.
 H.R. 882: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
 H.R. 955: Mr. PEARCE.
 H.R. 962: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 969: Mr. KUHL of New York.
 H.R. 997: Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 1023: Mr. CAMPBELL of California.
 H.R. 1064: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. PICKERING.
 H.R. 1073: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 1076: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 1078: Ms. SOLIS.
 H.R. 1105: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
 H.R. 1110: Mr. BONNER and Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 1112: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 1113: Mr. ALLEN.
 H.R. 1117: Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 1120: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 1125: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 1134: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1154: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SHULER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 1172: Ms. WATSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 1192: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 1193: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1198: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 1211: Mr. OBERSTAR.
 H.R. 1229: Mr. STUPAK.
 H.R. 1232: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 1236: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BOYD of Florida, and Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 1279: Mr. SHAYS.
 H.R. 1286: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 1302: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1304: Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H.R. 1320: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 1329: Mr. SOUDER and Ms. GRANGER.
 H.R. 1336: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1343: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 1357: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
 H.R. 1363: Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. LEE, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. PETRI.
 H.R. 1373: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 1386: Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
 H.R. 1400: Mr. LEWIS of California.
 H.R. 1418: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 1419: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 1422: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. ARCURI.
 H.R. 1440: Mr. GALLEGLEY.
 H.R. 1448: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 1459: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 1464: Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 1474: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 1476: Mr. PLATTS.
 H.R. 1481: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. SOUDER.
 H.R. 1520: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 1532: Mr. BERMAN and Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 1537: Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 1542: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 1552: Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 1553: Ms. KILPATRICK.
 H.R. 1570: Mr. MARKEY.
 H.R. 1576: Mr. HODES and Mr. SHULER.
 H.R. 1584: Mr. GILCREST, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LAMPSON,

Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. RENZI, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. POE, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. POE, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 1589: Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 1609: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. TANNER, Mr. BERRY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. WU, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 1634: Mr. GORDON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. WEINER, and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 1644: Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HARE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BARROW, and Ms. HARMAN.
 H.R. 1647: Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 1651: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 1655: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 1665: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 1671: Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California.
 H.R. 1673: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 1687: Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 1707: Ms. SOLIS.
 H.R. 1713: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1740: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
 H.R. 1746: Mr. HARE.
 H.R. 1767: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 1783: Ms. BEAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 1813: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 1818: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. LANTOS.
 H.R. 1819: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 1823: Mr. MURTHA.
 H.R. 1843: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
 H.R. 1845: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 1871: Mr. BOREN, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 1881: Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 1884: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mr. HARE.
 H.R. 1919: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 1937: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 1940: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. EVERETT, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1941: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 1944: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 1959: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1992: Mr. YARMUTH.
 H.R. 2014: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 2016: Ms. GIFFORDS and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2033: Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 2045: Ms. CARSON and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 2046: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 2049: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 2050: Mr. WICKER.
 H.R. 2052, Ms. CLARKE.
 H.R. 2053: Mr. SHADEGG.
 H.R. 2061: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

- H.R. 2063: Ms. DeLAURO and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2064: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 2069: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2087: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2091: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2092: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. WALTERS, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2095: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 2102: Mr. WU and Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 2116: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 2117: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2125: Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 2131: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2138: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. McNRNEY, Mr. WU, Mr. SESTAK, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. HELLER.
H.R. 2164: Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 2188: Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 2205: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 2210: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2231: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 2243: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2244: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2247: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2255: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 2265: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 2287: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2289: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 2303: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 2312: Mr. HELLER.
H.R. 2329: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. HALL of Texas.
H.R. 2332: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 2349: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 2363: Mr. POE, Mr. FARR, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 2371: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2373, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2387: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2412: Mr. FRANK Massachusetts.
H.R. 2421: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2425: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 2485: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2490: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2510: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 2511: Mr. COOPER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2516: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2522: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2549: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2550: Mr. BERRY and Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 2566: Mr. WEINER and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 2578: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 2596: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2600: Mr. SPRATT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 2604, Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 2609: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2617: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2620: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CARDOZA.
H.R. 2702: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2706: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2712: Mr. GRAVES, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. RENZI, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 2744: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2746: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2761: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2772: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2781: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2784: Mr. TURNER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2802: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2805: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2819: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 2828: Mr. WATT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2833: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2834: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 2842: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2851: Ms. LEE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2859: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2865: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. WEXLER, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2870: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2897: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2899: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 2905: Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 2910: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SIREs, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2924: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2928: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2930: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2941: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2943: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 2951: Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. VELAZQUEZ.
H.R. 2955: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2965: Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 2990: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SHULER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 2993: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3005: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 3010: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3024: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 3025: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 3026: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 3040: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3046: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3054: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3057: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3061: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 3090: Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 3098: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 3103: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3107: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SIREs, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3109: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3113: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3114: Mr. NADLER, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. HODES.
H.R. 3125: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3132: Mr. STARK and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3134: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3138: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 3142: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 3143: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 3144: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3145: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3146: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3147: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3148: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3151: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3155: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3168: Mr. McNERNEY.
H.R. 3186: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 3189: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3191: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3195: Mr. WU, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. REYES, Mr. HODES, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 3198: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3212: Mr. HODES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3213: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3219: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3220: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3223: Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LINDER, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3245: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3253: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3265: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 3273: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3274: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3276: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3287: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3291: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 3298: Mr. SESTAK and Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 3319: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 3326: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3327: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3329: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 3334: Mr. GOODE, Mr. BOREN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3337: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3339: Mr. HOLT, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.J. Res. 40: Mr. KAGEN.
H.J. Res. 47: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H. Con. 25: Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. KAGEN.
H. Con. 27: Mr. FILNER.
H. Con. 83: Mr. HELLER.
H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. ALLEN.
H. Con. Res. 167: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Con. Res. 176: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Con. Res. 185: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H. Con. Res. 189: Mr. ISSA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 193: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. COLE of

Oklahoma, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, and Mr. EMANUEL.

H. Res. 95: Mr. BARROW, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 111: Mr. ARCURI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KELLER, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H. Res. 185: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H. Res. 303: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. DELAURO.

H. Res. 335: Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 353: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 356: Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Ms. HARMAN.

H. Res. 405: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H. Res. 417: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 433: Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 443: Mr. TAYLOR.

H. Res. 444: Mr. MARSHALL.

H. Res. 525: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 536: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H. Res. 557: Mr. HELLER.

H. Res. 563: Ms. NORTON and Ms. CLARKE.

H. Res. 572: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 584: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BAKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. DENT, Ms. BEAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. PETRI.

H. Res. 589: Mr. HOLT and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 590: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

148. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 245 supporting legislation that would mandate that any member of the United States Armed Services, National Guard, Coast Guard, or any other service who is egregiously wounded in combat remain on active duty for the duration of any resulting disability; to the Committee on Armed Services.

149. Also, a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 250 supporting Assembly Bill A.2856 and Senate Bill S. 1342, An Act to Amend the Public Health Law, in Relation to Establishing the Age-Appropriate Sex Education Education Grant Program, to be referred to as the Healthy Teens Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

150. Also, a petition of the Consulate General of the Philippines, relative to a copy of an aide-memoire prepared by the Philippine government that details the nation's commitment to respecting and upholding human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

151. Also, a petition of American Immigration Services, relative to petitioning for an investigation of the Department of State issuance of the Visa Bulletin for July, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

152. Also, a petition of Mr. Tony Avella, Council Member of the City of New York, relative to regarding a request from Mr. Richard George, Director of the Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

153. Also, a petition of the Town of New Salem, Massachusetts, relative to a Resolution to impeach President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

154. Also, a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Res-

olution No. 382 requesting the New York Congressional delegation intercede with the Federal Aviation Administration to schedule a public hearing in Rockland County and to not close the public comment period on the new proposed New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia/Metropolitan Area Airspace Redesign; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

155. Also, a petition of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Virginia, relative to a Resolution calling for a definite timetable and deadline for the complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 3222

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. It is the sense of the House of Representatives that any reduction in the amount appropriated by this Act achieved as a result of amendments adopted by the House should be dedicated to deficit reduction.

H.R. 3222

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

AMENDMENT No. 24: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase light bulbs for facilities in the United States unless the light bulbs have the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. PHILIP R.
LEE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Philip R. Lee, who has been a dynamic leader in health policy for more than 40 years. He has served during challenging times and has shown leadership as a physician, advocate, teacher, researcher, and policymaker.

This September, the health policy program that Dr. Lee founded 35 years ago at the University of California, San Francisco, will be renamed the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies in recognition of his significant contributions at the international, national, State, and local levels.

Dr. Lee contributed to global health as Director of Health Services at the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, by advising health policymakers in many countries. At USAID he drafted the first U.S. policies for international family planning services and helped to strengthen the Agency's health and nutrition initiative.

Dr. Lee contributed to the health of our Nation serving as Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services during the Johnson and Clinton administrations. He was involved in the passage of many landmark bills in 1965, including Medicare and Medicaid; Health Professions Education Assistance Amendments; Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments; the War on Poverty; Job Corps; Food Stamps; and Head Start. Especially significant was Dr. Lee's work to establish the National Center for Health Services Research, now the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to fund graduate medical education under Medicare, and his efforts to desegregate 1,000 of the Nation's 7,000 hospitals in compliance with the Civil Rights Act.

Dr. Lee has contributed to the health of Californians, especially during his tenure as the third chancellor of UCSF, where he was known for his commitment to academic excellence and affirmative action. Dr. Lee continues to help policymakers and others understand that California is a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse State, and that both its educational and health care institutions must meet the needs of a diverse population.

Dr. Lee has also worked to improve the health of people in my district of San Francisco, particularly during his term, 1985–1989, as president of the newly established Health Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.

Dr. Lee is a rare role model in his exceptional accomplishments, as well as in his enthusiasm, tenacity, integrity, imagination, and compassion. His unwavering commitment to the needs of the disadvantaged, including the elderly, the disabled, and those without access to care has inspired a new generation of lead-

ers in key positions as researchers and teachers in academia, and as leaders of professional associations, public health agencies, foundations, and in the private sector. We in California owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the State and to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA SIEWERT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amanda Siewert who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County Colorado in the amount of \$1,000.00. Amanda will use this scholarship to help in the expense of her education at Metropolitan State College of Denver in Denver, Colorado. She will be majoring in education.

Amanda is a 2007 graduate of Pomona High School of Arvada, Colorado. Amanda graduated eighth in her class out of 410 seniors with a 3.8 overall grade point average.

In addition to her exemplary dedication to her academics, Amanda also worked full-time during her senior year, working with special needs children. Her particular hard work and dedication were apparent while working with an autistic child, whom she tutors on a regular basis. When the schools had exercised all learning options for the student, Amanda stepped in, and as a result of her tutoring, the child has made remarkable progress.

The dedication demonstrated by Amanda Siewert is an excellent example of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive for their personal bests in their education to develop a sense of responsibility and pride in their work that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amanda Siewert for winning the Curtis Garrett Scholarship. I have no doubt Amanda will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her academic career at Metropolitan State College and future career in education.

RECOGNIZING CENTROMED

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center week I wish to recognize CentroMed. CentroMed provides important medical services to residents of San Antonio and other parts of Bexar County. CentroMed, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically under-

served populations. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize CentroMed for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. WILLIAM "DAVID"
CRUDUP III FOR HIS SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in July, 2007, I rise to thank William "David" Crudup III for his 36 years of outstanding service to the U. S. House of Representatives.

David began working for the House in 1971 in the Longworth Bake Shop where he served many of our Nation's leaders and foreign visitors. One of his most memorable events was when he had the opportunity to bake a birthday cake for then-First Lady Betty Ford. Upon leaving the Longworth Bake Shop, David worked the next 20 years for the Clerk of the House in the Office Furnishings division. He served as a Logistics and Distribution Specialist performing a wide range of duties including furniture delivery to Congressional offices, warehouse inventory management and assisting with the proper disposal of excess furniture.

In September 1991, David took a position with Office Systems Management, also under the Clerk. He was responsible for a wide range of duties including the delivery and removal of office equipment from Congressional offices, as well as performing and reconciling equipment inventories and assisting with the proper disposal of excess equipment.

Throughout his career, David has been admired by House staff and his co-workers for his enthusiasm, professionalism and willingness to help others. He frequently went above and beyond the call of duty. His dedication and hard work should be commended. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to David for his years of outstanding service and contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

• 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALASKA
NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT
ACT TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE
TREATMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE
VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to correct an inequity for my Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans with regard to their native allotment issues.

Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict and therefore did not have an opportunity to apply for their Native allotment. In 1998, P.L. 105-276 amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam veterans an opportunity to obtain an allotment of up to 160 acres of land under the Native Allotment Act.

P.L. 105-276 contains three major obstacles that prevent Alaska Native Vietnam veterans from selecting and obtaining their Native allotment. First, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans can only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began. Second, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans can only apply if they served in active military duty from January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 (even though the Vietnam conflict began August 5, 1964 and ended May 7, 1975). Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans must prove they used the land (applied for in their native allotment application) in a substantially continuous and independent manner, at least potentially exclusive of others, for five or more years. This requirement was not in the original Native Allotment Act, nor has it been required of other Alaska Native applicants in applying for their native allotment. Further, adjudication of use and occupancy issues will take years and will be very costly.

My bill will increase the available land by authorizing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to apply for land that is federally owned and vacant. The lack of available land under existing law nullifies the very purpose of granting Alaska Native Vietnam veterans an allotment benefit. This is true because most land in Alaska is not available for Alaska Native Vietnam veteran allotment applications under existing laws. For example, there is no land available in southeast Alaska because it either is within the Tongass National Forest or has been selected or conveyed to the State of Alaska or ANCSA Native Corporations.

My bill will also expand the military service dates to coincide with the entire Vietnam conflict: August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975. The expansion of military service dates to include all Alaska Natives who served in the military during the Vietnam conflict is consistent with the federal government's policy of providing benefits to veterans of the Vietnam War. The federal government has given public land benefits to veterans (or their widows or heirs) of every war beginning with the Indian Wars of 1790 and ending with the Korean conflict in 1955. Incidentally, Alaska Native veterans were not eligible for these public land benefits until 1924 because the courts had determined Alaska Natives were not United States citizens.

My bill would extend the deadline of the allotment application to three years after the Secretary of the Interior issues final regulations under Section 3 of this bill. It also would correct the dates of Approval of Allotments to accommodate the extension of the application process of an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran.

My bill would also assure ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations that if an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran makes his or her allotment selection within lands selected (and not necessarily conveyed) by those Corporations said Corporation's lands entitlement will remain intact.

My bill would prohibit an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran from selecting lands within the right of way granted for the TransAlaska Pipeline or the inner and outer corridor of that right-of-way withdrawal (for security reasons after 9/11 attacks). It also would prohibit a veteran from selecting lands containing a building, permanent structure, or other development owned or controlled by the United States, another unit of government, or reserved for national defense purposes other than National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

My bill would also allow a veteran who made an allotment selection under Section 2(g) of this bill, before the date of the enactment of this bill, may withdraw that selection and reselect lands under this section if the land originally selected were not conveyed to that person prior to enactment of this bill.

My bill will also replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications. Use and occupancy requirements would be replaced for several reasons: (1) Congress has made legislative approval available to all other allotment applicants under 43 U.S.C. Section 1634(a) (1) (A); (2) legislative approval of allotments prevents costly and lengthy adjudication of use and occupancy issues; and (3) many Alaska Native Vietnam veterans could not meet use and occupancy requirements as a result of military service. For example, the application of a deserving Alaska Native Vietnam veteran who was paralyzed during the Vietnam conflict would be rejected if that veteran were unable to complete the five years of use of the claimed land and had not used the land for five years before the war.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who served their country in a time of conflict. I want to remind my colleagues that we owe our veterans the respect, dignity and honor them so well deserve for fulfilling their duty and commitment to this great nation. Please do not deprive my Alaska Native Vietnam veterans their rightful opportunity to apply for their native allotment as was afforded other Alaska natives in my great State.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY ALLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Allen who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County, Colorado, in the amount of \$1,000. Emily will use this scholarship to attend McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas, majoring in education.

Emily is a 2007 graduate of Alameda High School of Lakewood, Colorado and has had a very accomplished academic career. She graduated seventh in her class with an overall grade point average of 3.8. Emily was very involved in her high school career and that involvement only adds to the recognition this young woman deserves.

Emily was very involved with the cheerleading squad at Alameda High School, and will continue that involvement at McPherson College. Deciding on an education degree, she will be following in the footsteps of her parents, both of whom are Jefferson County teachers.

The dedication demonstrated by Emily Allen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive for their best in their education to develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emily Allen for winning the Curtis Garrett scholarship. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her athletic and academic careers at McPherson College.

RECOGNIZING UNITED MEDICAL
CENTERS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize United Medical Centers. United Medical Centers serve Kinney, Maverick and Val Verde Counties, three rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. United Medical Centers, along with other community health centers in Texas, provide much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. In rural communities, community health centers are often the only medical facility within miles, and the health professionals there serve as the family doctors for everyone in the community. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize United Medical Centers for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in

May, I rise today to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to the institution. His accomplishments while serving the House were many. One of his most notable contributions was as a member of the team responsible for reupholstering the two chairs on the dais in the House Chamber which are used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House during every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Phil many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHALLENGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am happy to introduce today the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2007. This legislation acknowledges the special historical and legal relationship of the United States to Native American people and builds on the lessons we as a Nation have learned in the international arena and our often-failed efforts to bring jobs, income and hope to Native people here at home.

Anyone who has visited Alaska Native communities or Indian reservations in the continental U.S. knows that Native people continue to lag behind their countrymen despite a rich cultural legacy and in some instances abundant natural resources on and under their lands. Native economies face a number of hurdles including geographic remoteness, distance from markets and population centers, and lack of or poor physical infrastructure. After decades of failed Federal efforts to revitalize Native economies, I believe the time is right to use what we know is working to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and encourage transparent governments in the developing world. Initiated in 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act has put forth a model for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The bill I am introducing today would use these same principles to enhance the long-term job creation and revenue generation potential of Native economies by creating investment-favorable climates and increasing Native productivity. It would also administer Federal economic development assistance in a new way to promote economic growth, eliminate poverty, and strengthen good governance, entrepreneurship, and investment in Native communities.

The Native American Challenge rests on four key principles that are as relevant to Na-

tive communities as they are to the developing world: (1) reducing poverty through vigorous private sector economic growth is a proven method of success; (2) rewarding constructive policies that are initiated and followed by the host government is a legitimate tool of United States policy; (3) operating as true partners with eligible entities increases the chances of success by maximizing communication and identifying and pursuing whatever mid-course corrections might be needed in tailoring an eligible entity's development plan; and (4) focusing on clearly-articulated criteria and concrete results by funneling Corporation attention and resources on those countries that have clear objectives, are willing and able to measure progress, and can therefore ensure accountability in their development plan.

A critical component of the Native American Challenge is in its demand for accountability in the performance of the Compact terms and use of financial resources and this legislation would require that not later than March 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, the eligible entities shall prepare and submit to the Secretary written reports regarding the assistance provided under this Act during the previous fiscal year. These reports, with any additional information the Secretary deems relevant, will then be transmitted to Congress by May 15 of each year.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA FLEMING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melissa Fleming who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County, Colorado, in the amount of \$1,000. Melissa will use this scholarship to continue her education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

This is truly an incredible honor for Melissa, because this is the second year that she has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship. The selection committee for the scholarship was so impressed with Melissa's dedication to her degree at the University of Colorado, they decided to award her a second time, an unprecedented milestone in the history of the scholarship award.

The Curtis Garrett Scholarship is based on two criteria that Melissa has fulfilled, those being a demonstrated financial need and the desire to pursue a career in political science or education. Melissa has chosen special education as her future career.

I encourage all students at every level of education to give their personal best to their studies and educational pursuits; that they may develop a work ethic and sense of pride in their work, characteristics that will guide and help them through every step of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Melissa Fleming for winning the Curtis Garrett Scholarship, for an unprecedented 2 years. I am proud of the dedication Melissa has shown in her first year of college and have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication in her successive years at the University of Northern

Colorado and to her future career in education.

RECOGNIZING CACTUS HEALTH SERVICES

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Cactus Health Services. Cactus Health Services serves Terrell and Pecos Counties, two rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Cactus Health Services, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Cactus Health Services for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. ARTHUR "ART" BALTRYM FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 24, 2007, I rise today to thank Arthur "Art" Baltrym for over 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Art began his career with the House in 1966 as a Congressional Page. After completing his education at St. John's University in New York and Georgetown University in Washington, DC, he graduated with a bachelors degree in Political Science. At that time, he returned to the U.S. Capitol and worked as a Capitol Police Officer.

Art left the Capitol Police in 1971 to pursue a challenging opportunity to work for the Education and Labor Committee, where he worked for the next seven years. In January 1978, Art was hired by the Clerk of the House as a cabinetmaker for the former Property Supply department. Over the next 32 years, he was promoted to various positions and eventually became manager of the CAO Furnishings department. Art's accomplishments are far too lengthy to list in this tribute. However, two examples of his contributions are worthy of recognition.

After the original Speaker's Chair was given to then Speaker Thomas P. ("Tip") O'Neal for placement in his official library, the Clerk of

the House commissioned the construction of a replacement chair. Art was a key member of the team that hand-built the replacement Speaker's Chair. He personally spent numerous hours hand-carving the exquisite detail that is displayed on much of the chair. Another significant contribution was his oversight of the team which constructed the two hydraulic-controlled lecterns currently used today on the House floor.

On a more personal note and equally worthy of recognition, Art has dedicated his life to making the CAO and the U.S. House of Representatives a better place. He has served as a tutor for the CAO's literacy program since its inception. He also serves his community by working as a "Food for Others" volunteer and assisting the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. After his retirement, it is Art's goal to pursue more volunteer opportunities and to perform community services in order to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Art for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The DDRC is one of the largest nonprofit human services agencies in Colorado with resources and services designed to provide positive choices, individualized to enhance quality of life and help people help themselves. DDRC has quietly made an incredible difference for the thousands of people it has touched with developmental disabilities and their families by its responsiveness and expanding to meet their needs.

The organization offers services and support in many forms, including resource coordination, children and family services, Medicaid support, adult vocational services, graduate activities program, quality living options, supported living services, and recreation services. All of these programs are of incredibly high quality and only further exemplify the DDRC's deservingness of this prestigious award.

The DDRC has a long history of holding a high standard of ethics. It has continually received the Better Business Gold Star Award and its code of ethics has been used as a model by the Association of Community Centered Boards.

Organizations such as the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center are an imperative in communities across the United States, because they provide a source of support for individuals and their families. Congratulations to Dr. Art Hogling, for his leadership of the DDRC. I offer my strong encouragement to the DDRC to continue their dedicated and excellent work and to all the individuals who

make the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center what it is today.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the Occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Community Health Development. Community Health Development centers serve Edwards, Real, Uvalde and Zavala Counties, four rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Community Health Development, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. In rural communities, community health centers are often the only medical facility within miles, and the health professionals there serve as the family doctors for everyone in the community. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Community Health Development for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO US STEEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate US Steel on their 100th anniversary of production in the State of Alabama.

In 1907, the United States was in the midst of a "financial panic" that threatened the future of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TC&I) and the jobs of thousands of people employed by the company in Alabama. The United States Steel Corporation (US Steel), the Nation's first billion dollar business enterprise, agreed to purchase a majority of the capital stock of TC&I, preserving thousands of Alabama jobs. President Theodore Roosevelt and the U.S. Justice Department gave their approval on November 4, 1907 for the merger of US Steel and TC&I to help restore public confidence in the Nation's economy, thus ending the financial panic.

Soon after the merger, US Steel significantly expanded iron and steel production in Alabama, creating thousands of new jobs, and initiating social reforms for company employees, such as: building new homes for workers, establishing community schools, and building the Lloyd Noland Hospital.

US Steel was the first steel company in America to embrace collective bargaining in 1937 by recognizing the Steel Workers Organizing Committee which became the United Steel Workers of America. The steel produced at US Steel by its Alabama employees built the ships, tanks and other military armaments that defended the United States in two world wars, as well as in the Korean War and Vietnam War.

In the past 100 years, generations of Alabama residents—estimated to exceed a million people—worked at U.S. Steel mills, coal and iron mines, barge rail lines and other commercial facilities.

US Steel continues to create quality family-supporting jobs, with health care benefits for some 2,500 skilled employees in Alabama. These employees work at plants and offices including the Fairfield Works, the largest steel making plant in the South; the Fairfield Works Seamless Pipe Mill; US Steel Realty, a major land developer in the Birmingham area; and US Steel's Transtar subsidiary that includes the Birmingham Southern Railroad, Warrior & Gulf Navigation Company, and the Mobile River Terminal at Mobile.

Despite the fierce competitive challenges in a global steel market, including unfair competition from heavily subsidized foreign steel producers, US Steel has continued to make job-creating and job-retaining capital investments in Alabama.

US Steel has a long history of supporting philanthropic and community projects to enhance the quality of life in Alabama such as the Red Mountain Oak in Birmingham, which will be the largest urban park in America. This project represents a contribution from US Steel exceeding \$10 million.

Madam Speaker, I wish to officially mark the centennial observance of the United States Steel Corporation in Alabama. I congratulate the company for 100 years of steelmaking and job-producing commercial activity in my State. Through its 100 years, US Steel and its skilled employees have made a tremendous contribution to the State's economy, and to Alabama's future as a major manufacturing center in America.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This bill invests \$50 billion in our children and our seniors. The minority has had no objections to spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq but objects to \$50 billion over 5 years for our children and seniors? Where are their priorities?

Passing this bill will mean that 5 million more children who are already eligible for SCHIP will be enrolled. That will bring the total number of children covered by SCHIP to 11 million. Passing this bill will mean a real investment for our children, our seniors, and, indeed, our Nation.

I urge you to vote "yes" on the CHAMP Act.

NO EARMARK REQUESTED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the Conference Report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, indicates that I requested an earmark project in Conference Section 2014(24) for Lake Rodgers, Creedmoor, North Carolina.

I never submitted for nor requested from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee or the Conference Committee for the Water Resources Development Act this project.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH HARFORD FAIR

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Harford Fair to be held from August 20th to August 25th of the year Two Thousand and Seven, in Harford, Pennsylvania. The Harford Agricultural Society has held the fair as an annual tradition since 1857.

The first fair was held on November 9, 1858, in the sheds around the First Congregational Church. Seventy-six people attended. One of the first recorded exhibits was five heads of cabbage. Each weighed seventeen pounds. A few years later the fair was moved to October. The entrance fee was 10 cents and the main attractions were speakers, brass bands, plowing matches and agricultural displays.

In 1865 the fair doubled in length, spilling over to two bright October days. By 1880, 3,500 people and 1,000 teams of oxen were flocking to the 117 acres of fairground. In the early 1900s the fair hosted the first automobile and victrola, merry-go-rounds, wire walkers, drum corps and the occasional circus. The Lenoxville Band first performed in 1940 and continues to entertain fair-goers.

Now, every year on the third week of August, 65,000 visitors pour into tiny Harford to enjoy one of the few agricultural fairs left in the nation. It has grown into a six day event that allows both the young and old to present handcrafts, agricultural items, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, animals, photography and art work. Last year's fair featured 7,519 items.

The Harford Fair is my hometown fair in Susquehanna County and I am proud to recognize the fair as an enduring tribute to community pride and cooperation. I salute the many tireless volunteers who maintain the Harford Fair and its rich traditions.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Harford Fair for 150 years of family entertainment, agricultural displays and community fellowship.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF PANDORA, OHIO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to pay tribute to a special community in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On August 10 and 11, 2007, the Village of Pandora, Ohio will begin celebrating a truly monumental event—its 175th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, The Village of Pandora is one of a number of wonderful communities in Northwest, Ohio. As early as 1832, with the completion of the surveying of the rich and fertile woodlands of the Black Swamp region, numerous settlers, including many from Switzerland, seeking religious freedom and rich farm land chose to make their home along Riley Creek. Then in 1835, with the construction of a gristmill by pioneer John Stout, an industrious village was born. Throughout its long and tradition-filled history, Pandora has established itself as a model community.

We in Ohio's Fifth Congressional district are blessed to have such warm towns and villages like Pandora. The individuals who live in these towns and villages are truly wonderful people. They are good friends and neighbors, colleagues and coworkers, and together they form a close knit family, all sharing a common bond centered on their dedication to their community.

Over the many years that I have served in elected office, I have had numerous opportunities to travel to Pandora. Each time I visit, I am greeted by friendly people who truly know how to make one feel at home.

Madam Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in small towns and villages like Pandora, Ohio. For 175 years, the Village of Pandora has served as a model by which other communities can pattern themselves. As we begin this 175th Anniversary celebration, I urge my colleagues to stand and join me in this special tribute to Pandora, Ohio.

HONORING EMMETT SHEPPARD ON HIS RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF SERVICE TO WORKING FAMILIES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working men and women, Emmett Sheppard, who has given decades of his life in service to the Labor movement. Emmett is retiring as President of the Texas AFL-CIO, but his work on behalf of working people in the Lone Star State will be felt for many years to come.

Emmett has worn many hats over the years. He served as a City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem in his hometown of Groves, Texas. Emmett worked for the Gulf Oil Corporation, and in this capacity, he took on var-

ious responsibilities for his union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-23.

In 1982, Emmett was elected President of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, which includes a large portion of Southeast Texas. In 1989, Emmett went to work for the Texas AFL-CIO as its legislative director, where he worked hard for the interests of working men and women at the Texas Capitol.

In 1993, Emmett was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO. In this capacity, Emmett worked tirelessly for workers' rights in Texas, traveling the state and listening and responding to the needs of working men and women.

In 2003, the Texas AFL-CIO recognized Emmett's leadership and dedication by unanimously electing him President of the 220,000 member organization. As President, Emmett has been an effective leader and tenacious advocate for the rights of all Texas workers.

Emmett has also served on the executive board of the Workers' Assistance Program, which assists workers with a variety of problems, and on the executive advisory board of Project SAFE Texas.

If I had to say what the secret of Emmett's success all these years has been, I would have to say that it comes down to one word: respect. Emmett respects others, and treats them accordingly. That is one of many reasons I am honored to call him my friend.

As Emmett retires, he can look forward to spending more time with his wife, Kathy, their two daughters and a granddaughter, who I understand Emmett is fond of spoiling.

Emmett, on behalf of myself and the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation, we thank you for your service and most importantly, I thank you for your friendship. Enjoy your retirement—you have more than earned it, and I wish you all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, I was unable to vote on roll No. 777 to sustain the ruling of the Chair. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this motion.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's children, a strong and secure Medicare program, and for passage of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162.

More than 6.6 million children today have health insurance because of the creation a decade ago of the State Children's Health Insurance Program SCHIP. However, these children will lose their access to good, affordable

health insurance if the Congress does not act to reauthorize the SCHIP program by September 30, 2007.

Today, the House will vote on the CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162, which will reauthorize and expand the SCHIP program to ensure even more children have access to the health care their parents cannot afford or who work in jobs that do not provide health care benefits. The CHAMP Act will provide 11 million children with health care, by expanding SCHIP to include an additional 5 million children who currently have no health insurance.

The CHAMP Act also provides the tools needed and creates incentives for States to reach the millions of children who are eligible but not currently enrolled in the SCHIP program. The bill ensures that children have 12 months of continuous eligibility, so their parents do not frequently have to complete a complex renewal process. Additionally, dental coverage and parity for mental health will also be provided to children under the CHAMP Act.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 44 million Americans lack health care coverage, including more than 14 percent of New Jersey's residents. Many of these Americans are children. It is simply unconscionable that in our country millions of children are uninsured.

The SCHIP program is strongly supported by our Nation's governors who have managed the State-run programs over the past decade and understand that SCHIP allows States to cover low-income children who lack health insurance in families of the working poor.

New Jersey uses its SCHIP funds to run a program called FamilyCare. Our State is a leader in extending FamilyCare eligibility and currently 125,000 children as well as 85,000 low income-parents are enrolled in New Jersey's program. Without SCHIP all of these residents of New Jersey would again be uninsured.

The CHAMP Act will allow States, like New Jersey, to continue set income eligibility for the SCHIP program. Because the cost of living is so high in New Jersey, it is important that our State has the flexibility needed to establish realistic eligibility guidelines.

Additionally, the CHAMP Act will allow New Jersey to continue to enroll parents along with their children. According to research by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, one highly effective way of boosting coverage among low-income children is to broaden health insurance to their parents. Currently, New Jersey is one of nine States that covers low-income parents.

Because the new Democratic majority is committed to balanced budgets and opposed to deficit spending, this bill pays for this historic commitment to our Nation's children with an appropriate increase in the Federal tobacco tax and reductions to the overpayments that have been paid to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans. Contrary to their euphemistic name, these plans have not been so advantageous for our Nation's seniors.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, the 45 cent-per-pack increase in the tobacco tax that is included in the CHAMP Act will result in 1,381,000 less children who will become smokers. This will improve their health and result in long-term healthcare savings of \$32.4 billion, 669,000 fewer smoking related deaths and 171,800 fewer newborn children harmed by smoking over the next 5 years.

Further, by reducing overpayments to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans, the CHAMP Act increases Medicare's solvency, and helps protect Medicare beneficiaries from higher premiums.

For our Nation's seniors the CHAMP Act makes much needed improvements to Medicare. I am pleased the CHAMP Act contains a provision I wrote when I introduced the Helping Fill the Medicare Rx Gap Act, H.R. 2058, to include costs incurred by AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, ADAPs, in calculating a Medicare Part D beneficiary's true out-of-pocket, Troop, costs. Medicare Part D pays 75 percent of a beneficiary's drug costs until their expenses reach \$2,400. Part D then stops paying and individual beneficiaries must pay for all of their drugs until total expenses reach \$5,451. This leaves a coverage gap of \$3,051—the "donut hole." "True out-of-pocket" costs, Troop in the donut hole determine when a beneficiary becomes eligible for catastrophic coverage.

Individuals suffering from HIV and AIDS need help. By including ADAP costs in calculating out-of-pocket expenses, we make them eligible sooner for help with their prescription drugs and we fix a loophole in Medicare Part D that discriminates against HIV and AIDS victims.

Additionally, under this bill the Medicare Part D late enrollment penalty for beneficiaries eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy program is eliminated and our Nation's seniors will be allowed to change their Part D plan during the year to meet their prescription needs. It also reduces the discriminatory copayments that Medicare charged for mental health services to the standard 20 percent copayment and adds additional mental health providers to Medicare so services are more easily available. Under this legislation, Medicare beneficiaries will have increased access to preventative services. The CHAMP Act also ensures that seniors have access to world class doctors by blocking a devastating cut in Medicare physician payments over the next 2 years.

The CHAMP Act is supported by the AARP, the American Medical Association, the Catholic Health Association, the National Rural Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, Families USA, the National Partnership for Women and Families, Children's Defense Fund, Child Welfare League of America, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. All of these organizations understand that the CHAMP Act will ensure more American children have health insurance and that Medicare remains strong for decades to come.

There are 11 million reasons to vote for this bill, each one a child who will move out of the ranks of the uninsured with the health care provided in the CHAMP Act. Medicare beneficiaries will also see important improvements to their benefits. A measure of a Nation's greatness is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. By making health insurance available for 11 million children, we live up to our moral obligation to keep children healthy and we make our society stronger. The CHAMP Act is historic legislation and I implore the President to drop his objections to this bill and join us in ensuring more Americans are healthy.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. RON DEHAVEN, ADMINISTRATOR, USDA ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, as Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, and throughout his career, Dr. W. Ron DeHaven has worked tirelessly to protect animal and plant health in the United States and advance the veterinary medical profession.

His accomplishments are numerous. In 2002–2003, Dr. DeHaven led a campaign to successfully contain and eradicate an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in the southwest in one-third the time and half the cost of the response to the prior outbreak in 1971.

He was the public face of the Nation's response to BSE—first with the Canadian detection in May 2003, and then the U.S. discovery of the disease later that year. Dr. DeHaven led the U.S. efforts to address domestic and international concerns as he headed the epidemiological investigation, and he appeared on television almost daily. His steady leadership and forthright communication during the crisis ensured that the public was constantly kept informed, and, as a result, consumer confidence in U.S. beef did not waiver.

Dr. DeHaven was at the helm in 2004 when USDA successfully controlled an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Texas. This set the stage for his work with international animal health officials to address the currently circulating strain of Asian H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza. He has spread the important message that we need to respond to this potential human health threat while the virus remains primarily a disease of poultry. Dr. DeHaven has also been a strong advocate for increasing veterinary infrastructure in developing nations to prevent the emergence of zoonotics—diseases that can pass from animals to humans—that increasingly jeopardize public health.

Dr. DeHaven has forged improved relationships between veterinary professionals, the agricultural community, and wildlife biologists to address diseases that affect both wildlife and livestock. One tangible product of this cooperation is the ongoing surveillance of wild birds for H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza that is being conducted by a combination of wildlife and veterinary professionals.

In other important areas, under Dr. DeHaven's leadership as Administrator over the past 3 years, APHIS has strengthened its regulation of agricultural products derived from biotechnology to ensure that they are safe for release into the environment. The strong, science-based regulatory system forged under Dr. DeHaven's management is helping to ensure that U.S. producers and trading partners are confident in the safety of these products.

Dr. DeHaven is also reknowned for his commitment to animal welfare. He served as Deputy Administrator of APHIS's Animal Care program for 5 years, ensuring that millions of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act are provided adequate care under the law. Dr. DeHaven also implemented an innovative risk-

based inspection system for the Animal Care program, targeting investigative and enforcement resources on bad actors.

Throughout his career, Dr. DeHaven has exhibited creativity and commitment to ensuring animal welfare and promoting U.S. agriculture. This Congress and this Nation is grateful.

HONORING MESQUITE'S NEWEST
TEACHERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District's new teachers for the 2007–2008 school year.

An excellent education is fundamental to the growth and development of our Nation's youth. With over 35,000 children in the Mesquite community, it is imperative that we continue to acquire high-quality teachers.

As a father of 2 young children, I understand and appreciate the impact teachers have on the lives of our children. We are gratefully indebted to them for enriching the lives of our students. Our teachers can make a difference in the lives of each and every child they teach.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mesquite's newest teachers in the United States House of Representatives.

BELATED THANK YOU TO MERCHANT MARINERS OF WWII ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I have reservations regarding H.R. 23, as amended, the Belated Thank You to Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. I believe that H.R. 23, as amended, sets a poor precedent by awarding a \$1,000 monthly payment to World War II Merchant Mariners. The authorization described in the bill has no requirement for the Merchant Mariner to have a disability or suffer from financial hardship. Currently, the only veterans authorized to receive a service pension are Medal of Honor recipients.

Whether or not to grant an unprecedented new service pension to World War II Merchant Mariners is not a question of bravery or contributions to victory over the Axis in 1945. Those questions have long been settled to the resounding credit of the mariners who braved unspeakable dangers to transport cargo that kept the Atlantic Alliance alive and fighting.

The Merchant Mariners serving during World War II were given veteran status under a system established by Congress in the G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977, Public Law 95–202. This process determined if civilian groups of World War II, like Merchant Mariners, should receive veteran status based on their service during the war. As of 1992, all World War II Merchant Mariners who served from the beginning of the war through victory in Japan

day received full veteran status under this system. This means that all of these World War II Merchant Mariners are veterans and qualify for all VA benefits and services including healthcare and old age pension.

An objective and carefully researched report on the contributions of Merchant Mariners during World War II and post-war benefits for which they were eligible can be found in the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, Veterans Benefits: Merchant Seamen, May 8, 2007 (Order Code: RL33992: <http://www.congress.gov/erp/r1/pdf/RL33992.pdf>), by Christine Scott and Douglas Reid Weimer.

Thirty other groups that provided military-related service to the U.S. in World War II have received veteran status in the same manner as the Merchant Mariners. However, this bill ignores their service to the nation; it focuses only on the service provided by Merchant Mariners who served during that same period. These groups include the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the famed Flying Tigers and many others who gained their status decades after their service. They served loyally, selflessly, and courageously. Their service contributed directly to victory in 1945. Yet this bill does nothing for them.

During the full Committee markup of H.R. 23, I offered an amendment that would include these groups, which was defeated by voice vote. I attach a list of the other veteran groups that received veteran status under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (P.L. 78–346) [Attachment A].

I also find the funding mechanism for this bill to be of concern. When this bill was introduced in previous Congresses, it was determined that because the benefit was an entitlement, it was subject to PAYGO offset requirements. However, the current bill uses a compensation fund to turn this entitlement into discretionary spending. This side-steps budget rules and places an unnecessary burden on the Appropriations Committees.

There is no current appropriations measure that would fund this benefit. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which is unable to identify the necessary PAYGO offsets to fund this benefit, is simply passing the buck to the Appropriations Committee. I do not believe this is a fiscally sound way to legislate. Further, if insufficient funds were to be appropriated, only some Merchant Mariners would receive the benefit, while others would not.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), in opposing this bill said, "If these measures were approved, the annuity payable for even a single month of Merchant Marine service in World War II would significantly exceed those payable to thousands of World War II combat veterans who served far longer and suffered significant combat disabilities . . ." MOAA also wrote, "A World War II military veteran who served 20 years and retired in 1955 at the grade of E–5 [sergeant] is entitled to a military retired pay check of only \$900 today."

I believe this legislation, though well-meaning, breaches precedent of pension policy law and does not make the best use of taxpayer dollars. I fear that it will have unintended consequences for future Congresses.

ATTACHMENT A

RECOGNIZED GROUPS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 95–202

1. 8 Mar 79—Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WWII).

2. 22 Jan 81—Civilian Employees, Pacific Naval Air Bases, Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Wake Island during WWII.

3. 17 Jul 81—Male Civilian Ferry Pilots (WWII).

4. 7 Apr 82—Wake Island defenders from Guam (WWII).

5. 27 Dec 82—Civilian Personnel Assigned to the Secret Intelligence Element of the OSS (WWII).

6. 10 May 83—Guam Combat Patrol (WWII).

7. 7 Feb 84—Quartermaster Corps Keswick Crew on Corregidor (WWII).

8. 7 Feb 84—U.S. Civilian Volunteers Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Bataan (WWII).

9. 18 Oct 85—U.S. Merchant Seamen Who Served on Blockships in Support of Operation Mulberry (WWII).

10. 19 Jan 88—American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the Period of Armed Conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

11. 2 Aug 88—Civilian U.S. Navy IFF Technicians Who Served in the Combat Areas of the Pacific during World War II (December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945) (WWII).

12. 30 Aug 90—U.S. Civilians of the American Field Service (AFS) Who Served Overseas Under U.S. Armies and U.S. Army Groups in World War II During the Period December 7, 1941, through May 8, 1945 (WWII).

13. 5 Oct 90—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of American Airlines Who Served Overseas as a result of American Airlines' Contract with Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

14. 8 Apr 91—Civilian Crewmen of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who performed their service in areas of immediate military hazard while conducting cooperative operations with and for the United States Armed Forces within a time frame of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

15. 3 May 91—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Who Served During the Period December 7, 1941, to July 18, 1942 (WWII).

16. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of United Air Lines (UAL), Who Served Overseas as a Result of UAL's Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

17. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA's Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

18. 14 May 92—American Field Service (AFS) who served honorably on flights with the 3d Combat Cargo Squadron, Army Air Forces, December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (Addendum to August 30, 1990 AFS (WWII) SAF decision) (WWII).

19. 14 May 92—Addendum which adds three ships (Oceanographer, Hydrographer, and Pathfinder) to the April 8, 1991, USCGS SAF decision (WWII).

20. 29 Jun 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation (Convair Division), Who Served Overseas as a Result of a Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period (WWII) U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support during the Period December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

21. 29 Jun 92—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Guard, Eritrea Service Command during the Period June 21, 1942 to March 31, 1943 (WWII).

22. 29 Jun 92—Addendum for “oceangoing” merchant marine (includes U.S. Army Corps Engineers, U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, or U.S. Army Air Force) (WWII).

23. 17 Jul 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Pan American World Airways and its subsidiaries and affiliates, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Pan American’s Contract with the Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

24. 4 Nov. 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Eastern Air Lines-Military Transport Division (EAL-MTD), Who Served Overseas as a Result of EAL-MTD’s Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

25. 13 Dec 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northwest Airlines, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Northwest Airline’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

26. 13 Dec 93—U.S. Civilian Female Employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps While Serving in the Defense of Bataan and Corregidor During the Period January 2, 1942, to June 12, 1945 (WWII).

27. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing as a result of a contract with Air Transport Command during the period February 26, 1942, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

28. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division, who served overseas as a result of Northeast Airlines’ contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 7, 1941, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

29. 27 Aug 99—Operational Analysis Group of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, who served overseas from December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945.

30. 30 Sep 99— Three scout/guides assisting U.S. Marines in offensive operations in Northern Mariana Islands from June 19, 1944, through September 2, 1945.

31. 30 Sep 99—Approximately 50 Chamorro and Carolinian policemen, who received military training and under the command of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion, to accompany U.S. Marines in combat patrol activity from August 19, 1945, to September 2, 1945.

32. 21 Feb 03—Reconsideration of “Pursers” as part of the Flight Crews of U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY KENT KEYSER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize 30 years of public service by my Chief of Staff, Kent Keyser. Kent started as one of my first 2 summer interns in 1977. He then volunteered in my Huntington office for several weeks before I

offered him a part time position, while he was attending Marshall University. He worked in Huntington doing constituent services, before becoming my District Representative and eventually my Federal Programs Coordinator. In December 1988 he came to Washington as my Chief of Staff. He continues to assist my constituents of the Third Congressional District with the highest caliber of service. His trustworthiness and dependability over the years have guided me and my staff through many challenges. Kent is well known for greeting members of my Washington staff with the question “What have you done for West Virginia today?” His loyalty to our State and my staff and me is obvious to everyone who knows him. One of the historical figures he most admires is Thomas Jefferson, whom he likes to quote, “All things are changeable except the inalienable rights of man.” And truly he is helping me work to change the Third District of West Virginia for the better. Kent is an asset to my staff, and also a personal friend. I want to publicly thank him for his service and tireless efforts on behalf of West Virginians. From Kenova, WV to the Nation’s Capitol, while a long distance, he has never journeyed far from his upbringing near the banks of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. On behalf of the people in the great State of West Virginia we thank you for 3 decades of giving of your self to our State and Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 120TH BIRTHDAY AND LIFE OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of the late Marcus Mosiah Garvey and to acknowledge the 120th anniversary of the day of his birth, August 17, 1887, a day which will be celebrated later this month in the United States, the Caribbean, and throughout the diaspora.

One hundred and twenty years ago, on August 17, the revolutionary, Marcus Mosiah Garvey was born in Saint Ann Bay, Jamaica. His father was a mason and his mother was a farmer. Although his dad used his hands to make a living, he loved literature and created a large library. The library became the initial information source that cultivated young Marcus’s love of reading and hunger for knowledge.

At approximately the age of 14, he left Saint Ann’s Bay and became an apprentice. He held the positions of Master Printer and Foreman at P.A. Benjamin Printery. In a short time, he was elected to serve as vice president of the Kingston Union, participated in a printers strike, was fired from his job, created The Watchman newspaper and found a new job at the Government Printing Office. All of this advocacy on behalf of the rights of workers prepared him for becoming an outspoken leader against oppression and an advocate for freedom and self determination.

From 1910 to 1913, he traveled throughout Central America and London. During this time, he attended Birkbeck College and held jobs as a timekeeper and newspaper editor. While in

London, he spoke at Hyde’s Park Speaker’s Corner, where his public speaking skills, developed in Jamaica, were honed before ever larger audiences.

He returned to Jamaica in 1914 and founded the Universal Negro Improvement and Conservation Association and African Communities League. The mission of the organization was to “unite all people of African ancestry of the world to one great body to establish a country and absolute government of their own.”

He came to the United States and established himself in Harlem, New York, to share the mission of the organization in 1916. Initially he spoke out on the street corners of New York and later went on a nationwide speaking tour. The late Adam Clayton Powell declared that Garvey “awakened a race consciousness that made Harlem felt around the world.” Through speaking and the newspaper he created, the Negro World, membership in the organization grew to an amazing two million plus. To further support the ideas of the organization’s mission, he incorporated a shipping line, Black Star Lines to transport goods and people of African descent back to Africa. An investigation of the organization and Black Star Lines led to a wrongful indictment and arrest of Mr. Garvey. This investigation marked the beginning of an effort to destroy him and the organization.

In 1919, he was shot by a man who committed suicide immediately after the shooting. In that same year, he and others were unjustly investigated by the FBI and charged with mail fraud in connection with Black Star Lines. Only Mr. Garvey was found guilty and received a sentence of five years. He adamantly proclaimed his innocence and many believed then and now that he was set up for political reasons. He served time in Atlanta and his sentence was commuted by President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Upon his release, he was deported to Jamaica.

He continued to serve as a revolutionary and political activist by establishing Jamaica’s first political party, the People’s Political Party, serving as the Councillor for the Allman Town Division of the Capitol City, Kingston. In 1935, he moved to London and worked on issues that involved Ethiopia and set up a school to train leaders for the organization he founded. In 1940, he passed away from a stroke after reading a false obituary of himself published in the Chicago Defender.

Mr. Garvey was a bold visionary. His idea and commitment to move people of African descent back to Africa and establish a government of self-determination are still inspiring today. Since he was investigated and convicted, his vision and efforts to mobilize people of African descent to return to Africa did not materialize. President Coolidge’s action could be interpreted as an admission of wrongdoing by the U.S. government. However, his name has not been formally cleared.

On August 17, 2007, people will celebrate the birth and life of Mr. Garvey. I applaud and encourage people all over the world to celebrate the life of such a great man. I also urge my colleagues to support my bill, H. Con. Res. 24, which calls for expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the rule and underlying bill, the CHAMP Act. I want to thank our leadership for their vision and commitment in bringing this critical legislation before us today.

Mr. Speaker, as one of the primary authors of California's version of children's health insurance, the Healthy Families Act, I know this bill will help reverse the neglect and devastation to our health care system that has been inflicted over the last dozen years.

The CHAMP Act will finally provide much needed care for the 5 million uninsured children across this Nation.

The CHAMP Act will finally allow millions of seniors the access to affordable, quality health care that the Bush administration's Medicare cuts have denied.

Finally, while I remain opposed to scientifically unsound abstinence-only programs I support the CHAMP Act's acknowledgment that these programs in their current form are not serving the needs of our young people who deserve access to medically-accurate, life-saving comprehensive sex education.

Mr. Speaker, as important a step forward as this bill is, our goal must remain providing universal health care to all Americans. The future of our Nation depends on it.

THE CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman/lady from [STATE] for yielding me this time. I request unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, today's debate is about promises and responsibility. It is about the promise of an American childhood. It is about our responsibility to protect the health and well-being of those who grow up in the world's most prosperous Nation.

It is about the promise of a better world for our children and grandchildren. We have a responsibility to create a healthcare system that is fair, equitable, and affordable for all Americans, regardless of their income.

Mr. Speaker, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act delivers on these promises and fulfills these responsibilities. It revitalizes and expands one of the most successful and cost-effective health initiatives we have: the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

SCHIP is a model for how government programs should work. It has saved money for taxpayers by helping children avoid costly hospital and emergency room trips. It has made states equal partners in the program's administration, giving them flexibility and a stake in

the outcome. Most critically, it has provided six million kids with health care that they would not otherwise have.

Because of SCHIP, six million American kids are healthier and more vibrant. Six million young lives are better because of this program. Isn't this what good government is supposed to accomplish?

There is still more for us to do, though. Millions of children in our country cannot go to a doctor when they feel sick. In my hometown of Sacramento, 17,000 kids cannot get the medicines they need until they go to an emergency room. This is unacceptable to me, Madam Speaker. It should be unacceptable to every single Member of Congress.

When I cast my vote for this bill today, it will be a vote for the future of our country. It will be an investment in the children who are the future.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before this House today as a colleague, but also as a proud grandmother. My two beautiful grandchildren are named Anna and Robby, and most of what I do here in Congress is colored by how it will affect them and their generation.

Anna and Robby are fortunate in that they have stable, reliable health insurance. Millions of their peers are not so lucky.

I am confident that if we all do so, we will see that voting "Yes" on the CHAMP Act is not only the right thing to do. It is the most thing to do. It will secure our country's future by providing healthcare for the millions of American kids who literally are our country's future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EARLY TREATMENT FOR HIV ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today is an exciting day as I join with you and Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and over 50 bipartisan co-sponsors—27 Democrats and 27 Republicans to re-introduce the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

Today is just one day in a long journey to promoting common sense health care in the Medicaid program. Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV is contingent on two factors; qualifying as low income and meeting the Social Security definition of disability. What this means for uninsured HIV Positive people is that outside of the Ryan White CARE ACT, HIV positive people must wait for their health status to be compromised beyond repair, to deteriorate to full blown AIDS before they can get healthcare coverage under Medicaid. This defies logic as current Federal guidelines call for early access to medical care and treatment including the use of combination antiretroviral therapy.

The Early Treatment for HIV Act, ETHA, gives states the OPTION of amending their Medicaid eligibility requirements to include uninsured, pre-disabled low-income people living with HIV. ETHA is modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, BCCA, that allows States to provide early access to Medicaid to women with cancer. As with the BCCA, participating States would receive an enhanced Federal

matching rate, the same that is provided through the breast and cervical cancer Medicaid project and SCHIP.

Earlier access to health care for people with HIV/AIDS is cost effective. It improves both the health and quality of life of many people living with HIV. By keeping people healthy, the government saves money on expensive medical interventions, such as emergency care or hospitalizations. Furthermore, new medications now allow people with HIV to remain in the workforce longer, and reduces the need for support from government income subsidy programs like SSI and SSDI.

Will the cost-savings be immediate? No. But after a number of years, when early, effective treatment will limit the number of people whose health status progresses to full-blown AIDS, health care costs will be minimized, and best of all there will be a 50 percent decrease in lives lost to this terrible disease.

As all of you know, I have been advocating for improving access to quality healthcare for those with HIV/AIDS for my entire career in public service.

I was deeply troubled 2 years ago when the Energy and Commerce Committee "reformed" Medicaid during the Deficit Reduction Act. I offered ETHA as an amendment during that mark up and secured the first ever vote on that bill. As I said to then Chairman JOE BARTON "if our committee is sincere about Medicaid reform outside of this budget driven reconciliation process, than we should seriously consider the huge improvements in health outcomes and long term cost-savings that will be realized over time through the Early Treatment to HIV." Unfortunately, the amendment was not agreed to.

In the past Congress, I was deeply involved in the negotiations of the Ryan White Care Act. Those initially writing the Reauthorization shifted huge numbers in funding away from the epicenters of the AIDS epidemic to other emerging communities and added language that would make it harder for providers to serve those most in need. A common sense approach would have been to just fund the bill at higher levels to keep states from being pit against each other for scarce funding. We righted some of the wrongs in that bill though, and will continue to work to strengthen the Ryan White program.

Madam Speaker, today is a new day though and a new Congress. With an equal number of Democrats and Republicans pushing for Early Treatment for HIV in the Medicaid program today, we have a new opportunity to enact common sense, life-saving treatment.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the last set of votes last evening, I unintentionally voted against the conference report on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

I ask that it be put into the permanent record that I fully support the passage of the conference report and ask that my vote be

changed in the record from a “nay” vote to a “yea” vote.

For the 11th Congressional District that I represent as well as for all of Illinois, passage of this legislation is of the utmost importance. WRDA contains instructions at my request for the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out studies and projects within my district at La-Salle and at Ballard’s Island in the Illinois River. The conference report also contains the critical updating of the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, vital to Illinois farmers and exports.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for producing a good bipartisan bill again and I am hopeful that this year we can finally get this bill to the President for his signature.

ON THE DEATH OF PATRIARCH
TEOCTIST

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 30, Patriarch Teoctist, the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, died in Bucharest of complications after a surgery. He was 92 years old and had not been in good health for several weeks.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Helsinki Commission, I have been very concerned and active on issues regarding the promotion of human rights and children’s rights in Romania. I have visited Romania five times—both when it was under Communist rule and since 1990—and I know Patriarch Teoctist was respected and beloved by millions of Romanians. He became patriarch in 1986, resigned immediately after the revolution in 1989 that overthrew the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, but was recalled by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Madam Speaker, after 1990 Teoctist promoted ecumenical dialogue. He invited Pope John Paul II to visit Romania. This visit took place in 1999 in Bucharest, where Teoctist met with Pope John Paul II, embraced him fraternally and prayed with him. What a magnificent gesture! It was the first time the Roman pontiff visited a predominantly Orthodox country since the schism of 1054.

At this time of sorrow, I wish to express my condolences to the Romanian Orthodox believers and confidence and prayers that Teoctist rest in peace.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this important bill to the House floor.

H.R. 2831 is designed to be an important but narrow reversal of the Ledbetter decision,

without upsetting any other current law. As many of us here today know, earlier this year, the Supreme Court decision Ledbetter versus Goodyear made it much harder for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims based on the fact that plaintiffs would need to file their charge of pay discrimination within 180 days of the employer’s decision to pay them less.

What was particularly disturbing about this decision was the fact that it stripped Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of its longstanding position that every paycheck resulting from an earlier discriminatory pay decision is considered a violation of the Civil Rights Act. The importance of this consideration of each and every paycheck is vital to the CRA.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court decision was untenable. Employees often do not know what their co-workers earn, or how and when pay decisions are made. These dynamics in the workplace make it nearly impossible to file a complaint precisely when discrimination first occurs. Many times they find this out far after the fact, and thus need a filing deadline that takes this time delay into account.

The bill before us today maintains the law’s current statute of limitations and limits on back pay recovery. It states that an employee must still file a charge within the statutory filing period after receiving a discriminatory paycheck but would provide a realistic timeline consistent with the Civil Rights Act.

Again, I thank the Chairman for bringing up this bill that calls attention to the fact that we need to make our pay discrimination laws work in a much more realistic and fair way for all parties involved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 779, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 780, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 781, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 782, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 783, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 784, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 785, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 786, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 787, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 788, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 789, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 790, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING DR. KAY HILL ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the family, friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to celebrate the retirement and the remarkable contributions to our community of Dr. Kay Hill—one of my dearest friends. An educator, mentor, advocate, and friend, Kay

has touched the lives of tens of thousands through her teaching, writing, and constant self-learning, even as she devoted herself to her family, through tough times and good times.

Upon graduation from Yale University, Kay began her career with the New Haven Public Schools system as an English as a Second Language instructor at the Welch School. Just a year later, she became the Supervisor of the World Language Program for 38 elementary, middle and high schools. Through intelligence, a strong work ethic, and compassion, Kay has earned the love and respect of her students and colleagues alike. It has been under her leadership that the program has grown from 24 to 80 teachers and currently has 6,370 foreign language students and 690 dual language students enrolled. Perhaps the most telling examples of the success of this program have been the outstanding achievements of its students who have excelled at the state COLT poetry recitation contest as well as on national and state exams.

Kay has always had a passion for foreign language and education. To understand her enthusiasm and her deep commitment to education, one only has to look to the inspiration she received from her parents. Her mother traveled to Paraguay at a young age on a missionary trip sponsored by her Mennonite church. It was during her time with this program that she learned the Spanish language—a passion which she passed on to Kay. Kay’s father had an illustrious career as a minister with the Church Center for the United Nations and later as a minister for world peace in Tampa, FL. Even in his retirement, he continued to make a difference as writer and editor of a social justice newsletter. Like so many of us, Kay took the lessons she learned as a child and made her own mark on the world.

In her position as supervisor for the World Language Program, she traveled extensively, opening the doors of opportunity for her students. Her first trip was to Russia where she and 30 students spent 3½ weeks touring the country visiting Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhny Novgorod. Kay’s dedication to education—especially foreign language education—has been recognized on many levels. She attended an international conference for compensatory education in Paris where she was the only educator representing the United States and was sent by the Connecticut Department of Education to recruit and interview prospective educators. Just last year, Kay traveled to China with a group sponsored by the Chinese government aimed at learning more about their culture and to promote Chinese language education.

As an educator, Kay’s leadership and vision opened many doors to her students, however, it is through her dedication and love as a parent that one truly sees the difference she can make in the life of a young person. As the mother of an autistic child, Kay has diligently sought out every possible program and opportunity for her son, Peter, to learn and grow—and what a young man he is. She and her husband, Mitch, make each other stronger, as they knock down the barriers that fate has put in front of them. Reflecting their determination and leadership, their daughter, Lily, recently co-chaired the annual State Prejudice Reduction Conference—a leadership conference of more than 1,000 students from across the state.

I also must take this opportunity to thank Kay for her many years of special friendship. As an educator, parent, and colleague, Kay has inspired greatness in others, including myself—leaving an indelible mark on their lives. I am proud to join her husband, Mitch, her children, Peter and Lily, as well as all of the friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Kay Hill as she celebrates her retirement.

TURKEY PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, as a Member of the Intelligence Committee, I congratulate the nation of Turkey on its recent elections. On July 22, 2007, 43 million Turkish citizens—over 80 percent of Turkey's population—exercised their civic responsibility and went to the polls to elect Turkey's 550-member parliament for the next 5 years. The election occurred without incident or allegations of impropriety. With this election, Turkey affirmed that its democracy is alive and well, and provided an inspiring example to other nations in the region.

The election will seat three parties in Parliament: the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Republican People's Party (CHP), and the National Action Party (MHP). In addition, 27 seats will be filled by independents.

Turkey's financial markets reacted with enthusiasm to the elections. On Monday, July 23, the Istanbul Stock Exchange (IMKB) rose by 5.08 percent, hitting a record high at one point during the day, reacting to expectations of continued stability and increased economic prosperity.

Foreign governments and world leaders praised the election process as free and fair. Numerous major media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times here in the United States, published positive editorials praising the "wisdom of the Turks" and noting that "democracy was affirmed."

America must cultivate and support our allies. We must reach out to moderate Muslim nations in the Middle East and build stronger relationships to repair our reputation abroad. Allies like Turkey can help foster economic and regional security. Turkey supports the Global War on Terrorism and is a critical ally in keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

As the only democracy in the Middle East with a predominantly Muslim population, the significance of this election cannot be understated. The U.S.-Turkey relationship is critical to both nations' security. Turkey is and will continue to be an important and strategic ally of the United States. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Turkey on this impressive achievement of democracy.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House that fixes a drafting error that has kept ranchers in Kansas from receiving important disaster assistance. My top priority this year has been to see that the agricultural producers in my district who have been devastated by extreme weather are given the support needed to stay on their feet and continue feeding our nation.

I was glad to see Congress recognize the importance of delivering disaster assistance to our country's hardest hit producers. I was not glad to see an error in the bill effectively prohibit ranchers from receiving this aid. A provision required ranchers to have participated in a particular insurance pilot program. The problem is that this pilot program does not exist.

Absent the fix we are making here today, some producers in Kansas, at no fault of their own, will not be in business come winter. In Kansas, we have struggled through 5 and 6 years of drought followed by last year's strong winter storms in December that caused 44 of Kansas' 105 counties to be declared natural disasters. And as you have all seen, tornadoes, hail and floods have now affected the rest of the State of Kansas. In total, 65 of the 69 counties I represent have been declared federal disaster areas this year.

I am grateful we are taking action to allow the intended disaster assistance to reach ranchers across the plains. The bill before us, the Senate version of a bill I introduced here in the House, will simply strike the one sentence in the disaster bill that is causing the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to support this bill.

HONORING THE AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAY
SCHOOL UNION ON ITS
125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. The Sunday School Union has played a critical role not only in preserving the church's history, but also in educating its members and providing an encouraging vision for the future. For over a century, the Union has been a fine contributor to the Nashville community, to the State of Tennessee, and to many parts of the world that have benefited from this organization's publications and services.

As far back as 1818, there grew a call within the African Methodist Episcopal Church for an organization that would produce suitable literature for its youth and would advocate training for its Sunday school teachers. Richard Allen, the church's founder, knew that in order for the church to grow, effective circulation of the information would be essential.

In 1847, the A.M.E. Church began considering several proposals for an organization that could achieve these goals. In 1882, after over 60 years of preparation, Reverend Charles Smith presented the final plan to the bishop in Cape May, NJ. The Department of Publications and Book Concern was created, publishing the first Sunday school literature by African-Americans. In a letter to Reverend Smith, Frederick Douglass wrote that the Union "will doubtless be a luminous point in the moral and intellectual progress of the colored people of the South."

In 1886, Reverend Smith purchased a five-story brick building on the square in Nashville for the newly founded organization. Madam Speaker, I take great pride in the fact that, since that time, Nashville has been the headquarters for the Sunday School Union.

In the years that followed, a number of dedicated and capable men led the Union. They sought to innovate the production process and to improve the quality of the publications. Reverend William Chappelle took over for Reverend Smith in 1900 as secretary-treasurer and served for 8 years. He was followed by Ira Bryant, under whose leadership the Union acquired additional property and purchased a modern printing plant. Then in 1936, E.A. Selby headed the Union, and it was during his term that the Department of Publications and the Book Concern merged with the Sunday School Union.

Reverend Charles Spivey, Sr., was elected in 1964 and served until his retirement in 1972. Upon the announcement of his retirement, Reverend Spivey made a generous donation of \$20,000 to the A.M.E. Church to help support its continued growth. Reverend Henry Belin, Jr., who followed Spivey, secured a new publishing house for the Union. Under his leadership, the Union published not only denominational materials, but also several scholarly works covering topics such as theology and history.

Reverend Belin was ordained as a bishop in 1984, and Reverend A. Lee Henderson was elected in his stead. Henderson revamped the Union's publications, giving the Sunday school literature and other publications a new look through the use of brilliant color and creative graphics.

In 2000, Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour was elected. The efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Barbour and of Bishops Philip Cousin, Sr., McKinley Young, Gregory Ingram, and Vashti McKenzie have combined to lead the Union to its current strong state on its 125th anniversary. Because of their passion, the Union can look forward to a bright future.

This anniversary marks real accomplishment that years of perseverance have made possible. For decades, the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School Union has focused its energy and its talent, making itself a first-class publishing institution. Today, the A.M.E. Sunday School Union continues its mission, publishing the highest quality hymnals, study courses, and church materials.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday

School Union, whose exemplary publications have strengthened the church and have fostered intellectual growth for over a century. I would like to ask the House to join me in extending warm congratulations to the Sunday School Union on its 125th anniversary. May it enjoy many years of continued success.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of my hometown, New Haven, CT, as friends, colleagues, and community leaders gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone—the 100th anniversary of the New Haven County Bar Association. Founded in the late 18th century and incorporated in 1907, this organization serves as the professional association for judges, attorneys, and legal paraprofessionals throughout the greater New Haven area.

As one can see from the historical exhibition currently on display at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, the legal community has long played a unique and integral role in the rich history of New Haven. From the earliest days of the colony and the *Amistad* case in the 1840s through the Black Panther trial in the 1970s and *Connecticut v. Griswold* in 1965, New Haven attorneys and judges have been at the center of legal decisions which have helped to define our Nation. Beyond those cases which garnered national attention, the exhibit also reminds us of the many local lawyers who had a significant impact on the character of our community. Theophilus Eaton wrote the laws of the New Haven Colony in the 1600s, Joseph Sheldon actively hired African-American law students in the 1880s and was influential in the development of the American Red Cross, Geroge Dudley Seymour who was known for his dedication to civic duty in the 1900s, and Mary Manchester, who, in 1938, was the first woman to be named a law partner in Connecticut.

Today, the New Haven County Bar Association is more than simply a professional association. It supports its members in many ways including continuing legal education programs, new attorney mentoring opportunities, annual social events and working to foster relations between its members and the courts. The Bar Association is also the sponsor of the New Haven County Lawyer Referral Service—a not-for-profit public service that, for more than 50 years, has referred members of the public to private attorneys experienced in the appropriate field of law. The Bar Association also works closely with its charitable arm, the New Haven County Bar Foundation, Inc., which provides charitable outreach and educational programming.

As members gather this evening in celebration of the New Haven County Bar Association's 100th anniversary, we pay tribute to the many invaluable contributions the legal minds of our community have made locally, state-

wide, and nationally—but most importantly for the countless hours of hard work they do every day for their clients. While New Haven certainly has had its share of compelling legal cases which have caught the public's attention, more often than not, our lawyers, judges, and legal paraprofessionals are working on cases which—while they may not make national headlines—have a real impact on the lives of those they are representing. For the outstanding work they do every day and for the many contributions they make to our community, I am honored to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven County Bar Association and its membership as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COINAGE MATERIALS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. Gutierrez. Madam Speaker, along with my distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. Frank, I am proud to introduce the Coinage Materials Modernization Act of 2007.

This legislation, which is supported by the Treasury Department, would update the law governing the materials used to mint U.S. coins by authorizing the Treasury Secretary to change the composition of coins to less expensive materials.

The immediate purpose of this legislation is to address the rising cost to taxpayers of minting pennies and nickels. Currently pennies are made mostly of zinc and have a copper-plated surface. Nickels are made up of an alloy of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel. Since March of 2003, world demand for core metals has driven up the price of copper and nickel by 300 percent and of zinc by 450 percent. At the current specifications for these coins, it costs the Government 1.7 cents to make a penny and 10 cents to make a nickel.

Other coin denominations continue to be made at costs well below their face values, but metal cost is increasing for them as well. This legislation will allow Treasury to change the composition of all U.S. coins to less expensive alternatives and dramatically reduce the costs of producing these coins.

The Treasury Department estimates that by changing the composition of pennies and nickels, we will save the Government over \$100 million a year; and by making similar changes to the half dollar, quarter and dime, the Government can save as much as \$400 million annually.

Under current law, the Treasury Secretary cannot change the base metals used to make our Nation's coinage without congressional action. The Secretary has the authority to vary the alloy of copper and zinc comprising the penny, but there is little room for further adjustment. This legislation would grant the Secretary the authority to change the base metals used to mint coins, potentially saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, without changing the visual features of our coinage.

After this bill is enacted, the United States Mint, which is a bureau within the Treasury Department, will seek public and industry com-

ment on possible alternative composition for the penny and the nickel. Following the comment period, there will be a competitive public bidding process for new coinage materials. Congress, particularly the Committee on Financial Services, chaired by my cosponsor, Mr. Frank, and the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology, which I chair, will exercise strong oversight over this process.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, which has the potential to save the Federal Government hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The financial resources of the Federal Government are limited, and it is rare when we have the opportunity to make a simple legislative fix with the potential to save the taxpayers so much. We should take full advantage of this opportunity and pass this legislation in an expeditious manner.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF PHOEBE AND RALPH SHOTWELL OF SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. Garrett of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two long-time public servants in Sussex County, NJ: Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell. Both are pillars of the 4-H in Sussex County, having spent a lifetime working with its programs.

Phoebe Hunt Shotwell, who first became a part of 4-H as a child, has been a volunteer leader for the 4-H cooking club, the Yeastie Beasies, for 55 years. She is on the Sussex County 4-H Advisory Council and is on the Executive Committee for the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. Phoebe is also a director for the Sussex County 4-H Foundation, where she reviews scholarship applications, a job for which this former assistant teacher and library aide is very well qualified. She has also volunteered her time with a number of community organizations, such as the local PTA and the Green Township Hospital Auxiliary.

Ralph Shotwell first joined his local Pequest Dairy 4-H Club in 1928 at the age of 11. Over the years, he has served as president of the Sussex County 4-H Council and has participated in a number of related efforts, including the Pomona Grange, New Jersey State Grange, Farmer's Enterprise Grange, Sussex County Agricultural Society, Sussex County Milk Producers, and Sussex County Board of Agriculture. He has also found time to serve as an elder in his church and as a volunteer firefighter and chief with the Green Township Fire Department.

It is due to the dedication and hard work of the Shotwells and volunteers like them that the 4-H program in Sussex County has grown to more than 700 members participating in 63 clubs.

Today, at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ, the Sussex County 4-H Educational Exhibit Hall Committee will dedicate the Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell 4-H Exhibit Hall. During the upcoming State Fair, the facility will be used for clinics, demonstrations,

presentations, shows, educational programming, and—most importantly—proud displays by 4-H members. I regret that I cannot be with these honored guests today as their 4-H colleagues demonstrate their extraordinary gratitude for the humble, yet outstanding public service of this Sussex County couple.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, the Implementation of the 9/11 Commissions Act of 2007, which would enact the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

This legislation provides funding that is critical to protect our Nation and improve our preparedness capabilities. It will give us the necessary tools to secure our country by increasing rail and transit safety, improving communication for first responders, and implementing programs to prevent terrorist organizations from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

This bill is especially critical to New York, which is still recovering from the terrorist attacks on 9/11, because it will award homeland security grants based on risk assessment. Enactment of this proposal will further protect our country by requiring scanning of all cargo containers originating from foreign ports, increasing funding for baggage and checkpoint screening, and requiring scanning of all cargo on passenger flights.

H.R. 1 will help to address the many challenges that the United States faces in the wake of 9/11, and I am proud to support it.

IN CELEBRATION OF HOUSE OF
TRICKS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of House of Tricks, a historic landmark restaurant in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

House of Tricks was established in 1987 and has since become an important and lively part of downtown Tempe. It has served innovative cuisine and fine wines for twenty years and continually attracts patrons; this is true for both those just discovering House of Tricks, as well as those who return time after time. The success of the restaurant is due to its owners, Bob and Robin Trick. Their dedication to Tempe and to their patrons has made House of Tricks a highly acclaimed destination.

The success of House of Tricks can be attributed to Robin and Bob's desire to make their restaurant a lasting part of the historical landscape. The Tricks bought a small 1920's

cottage in 1987 and expanded their restaurant in 1994 to an additional cottage. The Tricks then restored this building to its original turn of the century splendor. The gardens that connect the two cottages add to its charm and make it a peaceful and beautiful place away from the hustle and bustle of busy city life.

The success and longevity of this local restaurant is a model for independent businesses. It is for these reasons and more that I join in congratulating the Tricks on this accomplishment and wish them many more years of prosperous business.

LOWER ALSACE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Alsace Fire Company on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

On September 24, 1927, local citizens met at the Pleasant View Hotel to form the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lower Alsace Township. In April 1928, the Company broke ground for the original building and, in September 1928, the building was dedicated. Soon after, the Company created the Ladies' Auxiliary, which faithfully served the community until 2001. The Company and the Auxiliary worked together to raise funds for the needed start-up firefighting equipment and continue to work hard to raise funds to maintain and acquire equipment necessary to protect the public.

This fire company serves an area of six square miles with over 2,500 residents. Currently, there are over 30 active firemen and five well-maintained pieces of equipment that protect and serve the local community. This Company is equipped and trained to fight fires, respond to hazardous material incidents, provide advanced life support emergency medical services, participate in vehicle rescues, and partake in search and rescue missions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the members of the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lower Alsace Township, Pennsylvania as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. We all extend our best wishes and heartfelt congratulations for the Company's years of exemplary community service and outstanding dedication to protecting the lives and property of area citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE EBUSUA
CLUB OF SAN BRUNO FOR ITS
EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY
TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF GHANA
AND ITS DEEP COMMITMENT TO
BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE
BAY AREA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional organization based in San Bruno, California. The Ebusua Club is a truly unique and outstanding group,

made up of 18 Ghanaian-American families. Together, they work to improve lives in the Republic of Ghana, which was once their home, while building community in the San Francisco Bay Area where they have put down roots. Ebusua's annual events and charitable activities set a singular example for the people of both countries. By sponsoring projects that range from micro-enterprise in Ghana to soccer teams in the Bay Area, Ebusua has created a truly global community of compassion and generosity.

Among many other important projects, the members of the Ebusua Club have dedicated themselves to anti-malaria initiatives aimed at eradicating a disease that tragically kills 3,000 children each day, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa, despite the availability of prevention and treatment options.

Additionally, the club annually participates in the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation's Race for Research to honor a member lost to this terrible disease, Chaka Impraim. To honor his memory, the Ebusua team runs every year under the name "Chaka's Champions."

And the members of this group truly are champions, Madam Speaker, as they have also worked with Rotary International to train about 100 Ghanaian farmers in agriculture, food preservation and nutrition; organized materials, equipment and medical assistance to rehabilitate street children; dispensed polio vaccines to over two million infants and children; supported literacy programs by providing much-needed books for rural schools; and developed a low cost solar oven industry to efficiently replace chopped firewood.

This month, the Ebusua Club will hold a very special event—the Jubilee Ball, which not only marks the 10th anniversary of this successful organization, but also the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. This event promises to be a celebration of family, community and culture, and to live up to the primary purpose of the Ebusua Club—promoting Ghanaian culture and fostering an appreciation of how small contributions can make a tremendous impact on the well-being of others. In keeping with the group's charitable character, proceeds from the Jubilee Ball will be donated to help fight malaria in Ghana.

The name "Ebusua" itself is informative of the spirit of this marvelous organization. Among the Akan people of Ghana, the extended family, or "Ebusua," is the foundation of society. The members of this San Bruno group constitute a social network, collectively responsible for the material and spiritual welfare, physical protection, and the social security of each other. They exemplify the old adage that "it takes a village," and the village this group has created is nothing short of extraordinary. It is my pleasure to recognize their accomplishments, and wish them all the best as they prepare for their 2007 Jubilee Ball.

TRIBUTE TO AAAG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many organizations that strive to make a difference in the lives of youth.

The African American Association of Georgia, AAAG, gives the opportunity for our youth to work with positive professional athletes in an up close and personal setting. The AAAG has demonstrated a spirit of giving, service and leadership to our district. Our district, families and community have benefited from the AAAG working to build a strong foundation in the lives of our youth mentally and physically.

The AAAG has worked tirelessly to give their best to preserve integrity, mentor our children and to build our future. The AAAG is currently sponsoring the 2007 Sports Festival Track and Field Meet and I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 and July 22, 2007 as African American Association of Georgia Days in the Fourth Congressional District.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a bill that is critical to improving our country's water quality and infrastructure, the Water Resources Development Act.

I am glad we're finally able to pass a WRDA conference report. For far too long, Congress has stalled on moving this critical legislation, creating a backlog of projects in the country, including many in Southwest Florida.

This legislation is vital to protecting our environment and improving water quality in Florida and the rest of the country. The bill will help to restore the Everglades and parts of coastal Louisiana affected by hurricanes. It will also assist in protecting our beaches and coastal areas from floods and storms and is vital in facilitating commerce at our Nation's waterways and ports.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will pay untold dividends in the years to come. We all agree that our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a fiscally responsible government, but we also agree that they deserve to inherit clean water, clean air and a healthy environment.

I hope that the President won't act on his veto threat and instead will sign WRDA into law. We need this legislation to protect our environment for future generations. We can't delay in moving forward on these critical infrastructure projects.

TRIBUTE TO CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICE, INC.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Americans who should have been honored years ago for their service and sacrifice to the United States during the Vietnam war. For a period of 10 dangerous years, between 1965 and 1975, over 260 pilots and ground crew members flew over regions in Southeast Asia. They were the Continental Air Service Inc., CASI, personnel.

CASI was a subsidiary of Continental Airlines created at the request of the CIA to back up air service in Southeast Asia for another CIA airline, Air America. CASI personnel flew support missions for U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Operations Mission, the CIA, and other government agencies. The countries CASI covered include Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

CASI pilots deserve to be recognized by our Government. These pilots played a vital role during the Vietnam war delivering hard rice, food, medicine, and other supplies. Moreover, CASI pilots were sent on many secret missions to rescue American troops. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out these were not easy missions. CASI pilots flew for 10 years in the most unfavorable conditions: there were limited air traffic controllers in most regions, the unpredictable weather made flying dangerous, and their planes were constantly under enemy fire. As most of their flights were covert operations, the pilots could not even talk about their experiences with their own families.

CASI pilots flew the same missions, shared the same airstrips, and sacrificed their lives in America's war effort as did Air America pilots. In fact, CASI and Air America operated side by side for U.S. AID during the war. On June 2, 2001, the CIA honored Air America and Civil Air Transport for their part in the war effort: however, the CASI pilots and crew did not receive the same recognition. Many CASI pilots have passed away and some air crews are still missing in action in Laos.

After 32 years, the time has come to honor these individuals who sacrificed their own safety for the safety of our American soldiers and for our country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the gallant pilots and crew members of Continental Air Service Inc.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many organizations strive to bring awareness and enlightenment to our community.

The Asian Cultural Experience has been a unique showcase for different Asian cultures in the Metro Atlanta area.

The past 14 years have been and continue to be a great gift of music, dance, food, art, native crafts, and fashion of the many different Asian countries from around the world.

We have found a jewel in this annual event that touches the minds and hearts of so many. Our community has been strengthened, our lives have been touched, and our spirits uplifted.

The 2007 Asian Cultural Experience is being presented at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on July 14–15, 2007. I was pleased to proclaim July 14, 2007, and July 15, 2007, as the Asian Cultural Experience Days in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HART UPON
EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Hart of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America.

Mr. Hart's honor is truly significant because he earned the rank 70 years after completing the requirements for the award. Before he could collect his award, Mr. Hart joined the Navy and served for 2 years aboard the USS *Alfred A. Cunningham* during World War II.

Mr. Hart earned 23 merit badges during his time as a Boy Scout, fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. As only 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Mr. Hart's accomplishment is quite notable and worthy of distinction.

Mr. Hart's service didn't end with the Boy Scouts. He fought for our country overseas during World War II and continued to serve his community at home when he returned from the war—no doubt in part because of the skills and values he learned as a member of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Hart is part of a prestigious group of accomplished men who have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Hart upon this great honor. We're proud of him and all of his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Hart and his family all the best as he continues to serve our community as an official Eagle Scout.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDI- CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This is a landmark measure which touches on many aspects of our national health care system. It forestalls a potentially devastating cut to physician payments through Medicare that would imperil our senior's access to their doctors. It also expands assistance to our lowest income seniors so they get the help they need to afford life-saving medication.

But most important, the bill we are debating today will extend the life changing benefit of health insurance to five million more American children. That means five million parents who won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever. Five million parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Five million parents who can take care of their children in a way we all take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to six million children, about 750,000 in California

alone. These are children whose families have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who do not receive health insurance through their employment and can't afford it on their own. SCHIP is based on a simple premise: Insuring kids is the right thing to do. And it's much cheaper to insure a child, who is relatively healthy, than an adult or a senior citizen. The experience of the 10 years since SCHIP was originally created proves the wisdom of providing health insurance for children.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, this bill improves SCHIP by creating new incentives to seek out millions of children around the nation who are eligible but not enrolled. It includes a group of seven best practices, developed and implemented in states, that should be followed to get kids into the program and keep them there. That's the right approach. In the past, I've called for a simplified enrollment system so that families applying for a range of means-tested benefits, such as subsidized school lunches, can automatically apply for SCHIP. We accomplish that with this bill, and it will mean that more kids who are eligible will get enrolled and stay enrolled for a benefit that they are entitled.

The Committee on the Budget has certified that this legislation complies with the PAYGO rules we set earlier this year to ensure fiscal discipline. It pays for these important reforms to children's health and Medicare by an increase in the tax on cigarettes a provision that I hope will help discourage youth smoking. And it cuts back on subsidies to privately run Medicare plans. Contrary to the statements of the minority, we are not cutting one dime from Medicare. In fact, this bill today will extend the lifespan of the Medicare Trust Fund.

A vote for this bill is a vote for an America that takes care of its children. In the richest Nation in the history of the world, it is simply wrong that millions of children, our most vulnerable citizens, go without basic access to health care. With a "yes" vote, five million more children will enjoy the benefits of a healthy future and a real chance in life. I urge a "yes" vote.

TRIBUTE TO DEKALB COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many community organizations are called to aid in sustaining a healthy lifestyle for all citizens.

Under the leadership and guidance of the Dekalb Community Service Board, thousands have been assisted with treatment and support for Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addiction Services.

The Dekalb Community Service Board has demonstrated the will and desire to aid citizens in need since 1994 and continues today to be a beacon of light to our country.

Our beloved county and community benefit from the fruits of the labor that the Dekalb Service Board members and staff have invested.

This unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve in-

tegrity, uplift their fellow citizens and make this a better place.

The community service board has created an Annual Walk of Heroes to allow everyone to come out in support of the work of the Service Board.

I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 as Dekalb Community Service Board Foundation Day in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO APPLEWOOD PLUMBING, HEATING, AND ELECTRIC

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric has adhered to high standards of business ethics for over 35 years and employs ethical behavior as a philosophy in daily business.

Owner John Ward is the principal source behind this philosophy and serves as the role model for over 40 employees. To maintain the high code of ethics at Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric the company has weekly customer service sessions that address the best way to resolve issues that may arise in addition to trainings specifically devoted to ethics. As a result of these training sessions, the company has received zero complaints from customers regarding customer service.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric is listed as one of the top 10 service companies in the Nation with a spotless record with the Better Business Bureau. This is due to their dedication to high ethical standards.

The Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric model for outstanding ethics in business is an example for all business in America to emulate. I once again congratulate Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for their receipt of this award and encourage them to keep doing "the right thing."

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a terrorist bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, known by its Spanish acronym, AMIA, killing 85 people and wounding 200. To this day, the attack on the AMIA remains the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World War II, and as of yet, the perpetrators of this act have not been brought to justice.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 188, which not only condemns this heinous attack, but also applauds the Government of Argentina for speeding the pace of this investigation and calls on other responsible nations to support Argentina in its efforts to finally bring this case to a close.

Substantial evidence attributes the attack on July 18, 1994, to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. Evidence indicates that the tri-border region where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the AMIA attack by terrorists linked with Iran. Regrettably, the scheming of international terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah and al-Qaeda, are not confined to the tri-border region. In fact, much of the Western Hemisphere is ideal for international terrorist groups to establish bases due to the ill equipped and poorly trained security agencies across the region.

Almost daily, we hear reports of terrorist threats from organizations including Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. It is more important than ever to vigorously pursue and prosecute these criminals at every given opportunity. Unfortunately, while the AMIA case has been officially under investigation for over 13 years, the responsible parties have not yet been apprehended. Massive judicial and investigative irregularities, destruction of evidence, and cover-ups have already distorted the long-delayed trial. Make no mistake about it, failure to duly punish the culprits of the AMIA attack serves to reward terrorists and help spread terrorism.

I strongly applaud the recent efforts by the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by aggressively pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever they may lead, and to properly punish all those who are involved. However, if the last few years have taught us anything, it is that no nation can effectively combat terrorism on its own. While it is up to the Argentine government to conduct a thorough investigation, it is also the responsibility of the international community to cooperate fully in this effort.

Argentina owes it to itself, its people, and the human family to conduct an intense, fearless, and comprehensive investigation that will lead to the identification and prosecution of the principal criminals. We in the international community owe it to Argentina to cooperate with its efforts to bring this dark chapter of its history to a close.

H. Con. Res. 188 is not only a much needed reminder of this tragic event, but it is also a reminder of the truly international scope of the war on terror.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDDIE L. LONG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service.

Bishop Eddie L. Long has given of himself since August of 1987 to lead New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Bishop Eddie L. Long, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained New Birth Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that betters the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens.

This remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community for the past 20 years by preaching the gospel and living the gospel.

Bishop Eddie L. Long is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a man of great courage, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared with not only New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, but with Dekalb County and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to proclaim August 17, 2007 as Bishop Eddie L. Long Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENOA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Genoa National Fish Hatchery for 75 years of dedicated aquatic resource conservation.

Established in 1932 through the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Act, Genoa National Fish Hatchery is one of 69 Federal hatcheries managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The location was selected because of its proximity to the Mississippi River and its reliable source of broodfish and artesian well water, both of which are used to raise fish and fill ponds. Hatchery construction was completed in 1939 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression.

To support ongoing fish management and restoration programs, Genoa provides millions of eggs, fry, and fingerlings to State fishery stations, Federal hatcheries, National Wildlife refuges, Department of Army installations, and seven Native American Tribes.

Genoa's location and its ability to create different rearing environments and water temperatures makes it one of the most diverse hatcheries in the Nation. Nineteen ponds ranging in size from one-tenth of one acre to thirty-three acres, six raceways, and seven intensive rearing buildings make it capable of collecting, culturing, and rearing cold, cool, and warm water fish species. Genoa raises, holds, and rears more species of fish and freshwater mussels than almost any other Federal fish hatchery in the Nation.

Genoa's mission has changed and evolved over the years. Initially, its purpose was to raise bass and panfish for area waters. In the 1950s, it evolved to sportfish restoration, predominantly northern pike and walleye. As science developed and needs for fishery conservation in the country changed, so did the hatchery's mission. In the 1990s, the value of hatcheries as important tools for recovering and restoring threatened and endangered fish and aquatic species was recognized. Genoa expanded its traditional missions to include recovering and restoring endangered mussels, lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout. Today, eggs, and fry are still provided to State conservation agencies to assist them in their fishery management programs.

On multiple occasions, I toured this amazing facility and witnessed the ongoing and award-

winning research performed by its hard-working, dedicated staff. Two staff members have received awards this year through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Doug Aloisi received the Project Leader of the Year Award for his leadership on imperiled native mussels and lake sturgeon and his strong outreach efforts. Roger Gordon received the National Recovery Champion Award for being the driving force behind mussel conservation. I am proud to have the hatchery in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE CREW'S NEST ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute to a special facility in the great State of Ohio. This year, The Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio celebrates thirty-five years of dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, is one of the finest destinations on the Great Lakes. Located in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, on South Bass Island, the Crews Nest is part of the rich and historic past of Lake Erie.

Dating back to the War of 1812, Put-in-Bay and South Bass Island served our great Nation as the key base of operations for Commodore Oliver H. Perry. Through this port-of-call, Commodore Perry was able to ensure our independence and our place among nations. Even today, we acknowledge the heroic actions of Commodore Perry with a granite memorial that towers some 352 feet above the island.

And, it is in this very harbor, with Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial as a backdrop, that you will find one of the Great Lake's finest private boating clubs. From the time of its inception in 1968, the Crew's Nest has continued to provide vacationers with the finest accommodations on Lake Erie. Today, the Crew's Nest provides members and non-members alike with a safe and enjoyable stay on this historic island.

Madam Speaker, the real success of the Crew's Nest facility comes not only from its first class accommodations, but its employees. I have visited this facility many times with my family and can tell you first-hand what makes the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, so special are its employees. The staff's attention to service and boundless enthusiasm continue to make the Crew's Nest a required visit for guests to Put-in-Bay.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio. As all who benefit from this fine establishment gather to celebrate its 35th anniversary of service, I am confident that the excellent employees will continue the success of The Crew's Nest into the future.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today applaud the action of the House of Representatives in standing up for our children. H.R. 3162—Children's Health and Medical Care Protection Act of 2007 provides needed additional funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) nationally, and in my State, it will allow the continuation of the successful PeachCare program currently serving 270,000 children.

Early on, I advocated for the full reauthorization of SCHIP, at a minimum, so that childhood healthcare is not compromised. This bill accomplishes that and even expands the program. However, this particular bill also forces cuts to Medicare Part C, a program in which over 8,000 seniors in my district are enrolled.

I have heard from these seniors in person, through the mail, on the phone, and over fax about their support for this program and the difference it has made in their lives. I wish there were another option for House consideration today that would enable this program to continue in its current state. While I am supporting this legislation today to expand SCHIP, I want to assure the seniors from the 4th district that their words have not fallen on deaf ears.

I believe Congress will have an opportunity to take another look at this legislation after conferencing with the Senate, and I hope the package presented will take care of those in greatest need at both the dawn and dusk of their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAPTAIN LARRY G. WEDEKIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I wish to congratulate Assistant Solicitor Larry G. Wedekind of Lexington County's eleventh Judicial Circuit for being sworn in as a Captain in the South Carolina Army National Guard. He will be joining the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Captain Wedekind of Chapin has devoted his career to public service. After graduating from The Citadel—The Military College of South Carolina, he served 8 years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a communications officer and as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. A 1997 graduate of the University of South Carolina's School of Law, Captain Wedekind has worked as a lawyer for the Fifth and Eleventh Judicial Circuit courts as well as in the office of the Attorney General.

As a soldier and lawyer, Larry remains committed to the citizens of his country and his State of South Carolina. He is a true role-model. I applaud his tremendous sense of duty. I want to wish him and his wife, Angie, all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES OF
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AD-
MINISTRATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the employees of the Transportation Security Administration.

When Congress created the TSA, we intended to form a security force that could quickly adapt and respond to crises in order to protect our nation's transportation system.

On August 10, 2006, TSA demonstrated that it can perform its mission admirably.

As we now know, 21 terrorists from London were conspiring to detonate liquid explosives aboard transatlantic flights bound for the United States. They wanted to create a catastrophe that could have rivaled the horror of September 11th. Though their plot was foiled, the event should serve to remind us that we must remain vigilant in the ongoing war against terror.

The TSA's response to this imminent threat helped guide our nation through that crisis. In the evening hours of August 9, 2006, TSA quickly responded. As British authorities began arresting the terrorist suspects, TSA altered its screening to ensure that the plot would be foiled.

Within four hours—before the first flight took off on August 10th—TSA implemented new security procedures, trained and deployed more than 43,000 Transportation Security Officers to execute these new procedures, and deployed Federal Air Marshals to multiple locations overseas. The dedication that the employees of TSA demonstrated in response to this terrorist plot should not be forgotten.

Notably, the work attendance for Transportation Security Officers on August 10th was an all-time high in the history of TSA. As one Federal Security Director recalled, "All our security officers came in; every single one of them. Anytime something happens . . . you have to fight them off. Mission is never our problem."

On this anniversary of that failed attempt of terror, I want to thank the employees of the Transportation Security Administration. We owe them great gratitude.

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE HOOD
RIVER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 75
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the honor associated with the United States House of Representatives to Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. On August 4, 2007, the hospital, located at 13th and May Streets in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, will officially celebrate 75 years of service. I was fortunate enough to serve on the hospital's Board of Directors for five years and that experience provided me the opportunity to see firsthand the dedication and commitment of the staff and administration to the health of the entire community.

At the turn of the 20th century, 622 people inhabited Hood River. The advent of the railroad transformed this once isolated community into a hub for some of the nation's finest timber and fruit producers. Within five years, the population tripled. Today, 20,500 people call Hood River County home and timber and fruit produces remain a significant element of the region's fabric but so do windsurfers, skiers and hikers.

In 1905, local physicians came together to open Cottage Hospital at 716 Oak Street. Hood River's first hospital served the community for 19 years, before it was declared structurally unsafe and closed by the fire marshal in 1924.

Although a disappointing loss to the community, the closure of Cottage Hospital set into motion a tremendous local commitment to health care that carries on today. The Hood River Hospital Association organized for the purpose of building a new community hospital to replace Cottage Hospital. Successful fundraising efforts netted enough money to begin construction on a new hospital in 1931. Hood River Hospital admitted 501 patients during its first year of operation in 1932.

In the late 1940s, Hood River Hospital's surgery department owned all the latest equipment: an operating table, a spotlight, basins, forceps, knives, probes, clips and clamps. However, the medical field did not yet know the convenience of disposable items. Following surgery, rubber gloves were washed, dried and powdered to sterilize them. Surgery needles were sharpened, sterilized and re-used.

As the population of Hood River grew after World War II, the patient population soon outpaced hospital capacity. The residents of Hood River swung into action again and with generous donations from community members the hospital was enlarged in 1958. In response to the abundant donations that were made in memory of those whose lives were touched by the hospital, the name of the facility was officially changed to Hood River Memorial Hospital.

A cycle was becoming clear; every two to three decades the hospital outgrew its space and an expansion was necessary to keep pace with the needs of patients and technological advancements. It happened in the late 1950s and again in the 1980s when community donations allowed for the construction of new patient care wings. In the 1990s the hospital footprint was expanded, allowing for the addition of a new family birthing center and the Ray T. Yasui Dialysis Center, the first dialysis center in the Columbia Gorge. All of these efforts were made possible by unwavering donations of time, talent and treasure from the Hood River community.

As Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital celebrates 75 years in a structure that no longer physically resembles the original hospital that opened its doors in 1932, another much-needed expansion and renovation project begins. This new phase of development will feature a new entrance and lobby. It also will allow the diagnostic imaging department to operate from one location. The short stay surgery department will be transformed to include 18 private rooms. The family birthing center will add a dedicated cesarean section operating room and other features to comfort laboring mothers.

Construction is set to begin in the fall and should be completed in about a year. At that

time, the current building will be renovated and modernized to include a 10 bed rehabilitation center which will allow patients who have experienced a stroke or heart attack to recover and rehabilitate close to home.

Milestones such as anniversaries cause us to pause and reflect on history, achievements and the individuals that contributed to the successes that have brought us to where we are today. Madam Speaker, indeed it is important for us to celebrate milestones. However, it is my hope that we will all strive to acknowledge the extraordinary care and compassion that is provided each and every day by those who staff and support community hospitals throughout the year, not just during milestone celebrations.

My colleagues, please join me in congratulating Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital for their exemplary service over the past 75 years and in wishing them very well as they break ground on the next 75 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to vote on the amendment offered by Mr. SESSION to H.R. 3093 (rollcall No. 721) on Wednesday, July 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE
KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize establishment of a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Moloka'i, HI, to honor the memory and sacrifices of the some 8,000 Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula between 1866 and 1969. I want to thank my friend and colleague Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE for cosponsoring this legislation.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

While most of us know about the sacrifices of Father Damien, who dedicated his life to care for those exiled to Kalaupapa, fewer know of the courage and sacrifices of the patients who were torn from their families and

left to make a life in this isolated area. It is important that their lives be remembered.

Of the some 8,000 former patients buried in Kalaupapa, only some 1,300 have marked graves. A memorial listing the names of those who were exiled to Kalaupapa and died there is a fitting tribute and is consistent with the primary purpose of the park, which is "to preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 to promote the value and dignity of the more than 8,000 persons—some 90 percent of who were Native Hawaiian—who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula. A central goal of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to make certain that the lives of these individuals are honored and remembered through the establishment of a memorial or memorials within the boundaries of the park at Kalawao or Kalaupapa.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has made a commitment to raise the funds needed to design and build the memorial and will work with the National Park Service on design and location of the memorial.

The House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on the 109th Congress version of this bill, H.R. 4529, on September 28, 2006. I have read the heartfelt and compelling testimony submitted by current patients and family members of former patients who want to make sure not only that the story of Kalaupapa is told but that the patients are recognized as individuals by having the names of each of those exiled to Kalaupapa and buried there recorded for posterity. Families that have visited Kalaupapa and Kalawao searching in vain for the graves of their family members will find comfort in seeing those names recorded on a memorial.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE QUALITY
HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act, which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. Over the past few years, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERISA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that some-

thing like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health care and further erode the ability of patients and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN who spent over 30 years practicing medicine, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, anti-trust laws harm consumers by preventing the operation of the free-market, causing prices to rise, quality to suffer, and, as is certainly the case with the relationship between the HMOs and medical professionals, favoring certain industries over others.

By restoring the freedom of medical professionals to voluntarily come together to negotiate as a group with HMOs and insurance companies, this bill removes a government-imposed barrier to a true free market in health care. Of course, this bill does not infringe on the rights of health care professionals by forcing them to join a bargaining organization against their will. While Congress should protect the rights of all Americans to join organizations for the purpose of bargaining collectively, Congress also has a moral responsibility to ensure that no worker is forced by law

to join or financially support such an organization.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Congress will not only remove the restraints on medical professionals' freedom of contract, but will also empower patients to control their health care by passing my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts individuals back in charge of their own health care by providing Americans with large tax credits and tax deductions for their health care expenses, including a deduction for premiums for a high-deductible insurance policy purchased in combination with a Health Savings Account. Putting individuals back in charge of their own health care decisions will enable patients to work with providers to ensure they receive the best possible health care at the lowest possible price. If providers and patients have the ability to form the contractual arrangements that they find most beneficial to them, the HMO monster will wither on the vine without the imposition of new federal regulations on the insurance industry.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support the Quality Health Care Coalition Act and restore the freedom of contract and association to America's health care professionals. I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to promote a true free market in health care by putting patients back in charge of the health care dollar by supporting my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
THADDEUS EDGAR OWENS, SR.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of Thaddeus Edgar Owens, Sr., a great citizen, father, and friend who recently passed away at the age of 88.

Thaddeus was born on January 7, 1919 to Alex Owens and Carrie Brown in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He enjoyed a happy childhood with his sister, Cleopatra, and a large extended family. An attentive student, he received a scholarship to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, enrolling at the young age of sixteen. There, he played football and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

After graduation, Thaddeus lived and worked in New York until 1941 when he was drafted into the armed forces. He achieved the rank of a sergeant and worked as a clerk in the office of the Quartermaster. In preparation for work with the French Underground, Thaddeus was chosen to participate in a secret project at Hamilton College where he studied and became fluent in French. Despite their training, Thaddeus and his fellow African American soldiers were never permitted to participate in this aspect of the war. Thaddeus confronted the injustices existing within the segregated armed forces protesting the rail-roading of a fellow soldier. His actions resulted in him being accused of mutiny and reduced in rank. Despite this incident, he was honorably discharged in 1945 after receiving the Asiatic Pacific Service, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals.

After the war, Thaddeus went on to obtain his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. He led an active life in local politics and community affairs for many years, serving on the Legal Redress Committee of the Brooklyn NAACP and a legal advisor in the Brooklyn Democratic Party. His legal career progressed when he won the election for Judge of the Civil Court of New York City in 1975. He became the first African American man appointed to the Supreme Court of Staten Island, and then returned to Brooklyn to serve as a fully appointed State Supreme Court Justice in 1982. Thaddeus retired in 1995.

Thaddeus loved to read and was appreciated for his intellectual brilliance. Charming and outgoing, he was known for his quick wit and playful sense of humor. Thaddeus always put the care and well-being of his family first, his wife, Emma Louise Owens, his two sons, Thaddeus Jr. and David, and his two daughters, Michele and Priscilla. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of the 11th District of Ohio, I express my sincerest condolences to the family of Thaddeus Edgar Owens, Sr. May his legacy of compassion forever live in our hearts.

COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD
PROTECTION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. This bill seeks to address a growing problem among college students in the United States: devastating credit card debt.

Nellie Mae's Student Credit Card Usage Analysis in 2005 found that the outstanding balance for the average college student was \$2,169. Final year students carried an average balance of \$2,864 while freshmen carry an average balance of \$1,585. Additionally, as students progress through school, credit card usage swells. Ninety-one percent of final year students have a credit card compared to 42% of freshmen. The study also found that the average American college student is graduating with more than 4 credit cards to their name.

College freshmen are typically offered eight credit cards during their first semester. Semester after semester, students open their mail boxes to find envelopes notifying them that they are pre-approved for credit cards with a \$500 limit and no annual fee. When they check their e-mail, there are more credit card offers. When they answer the phone in their dorm room, there are even more offers.

Credit card companies pay college students generously to stand outside dining halls, dorms, and academic buildings and encourage their peers to apply for credit cards. With each completed application, the student applicant receives free gifts—from t-shirts to indoor basketball hoops—and the credit card company receives another interest-paying customer.

I have heard horror stories from my district about college students overwhelmed by credit card debt. One third-year college student had amassed a whopping \$14,000 of debt. The question that cries out for an answer is: why

are we making it so easy for our young people to amass such outrageous amounts of debt?

With interest rates climbing, fees increasing, and the number of credit card holders going up every day, credit card companies should not be allowed to expand their unfair, predatory business practices by exploiting our Nation's future. College students are often inexperienced consumers who can get sucked into unfair credit card deals or simply get in over their heads with the numerous underlying and unknown fees. Many simply sign up for a credit card without any knowledge of the interest rate, fees, and penalties that come along with their card. We must address these unfair lending practices and fees to help American college students avoid enormous financial burdens from which, as adults, they may never recover.

College graduation should be a time of excitement and new beginnings; a time when students can watch the skills they have learned in college manifest into successful careers and happy lives. But instead of seeing endless possibilities, too many students are burdened with endless debt. Studies now show that the likelihood of homeownership decreases as student debt increases. It is heart-breaking to me to think that recent graduates could jeopardize their future because we have allowed creditors to lend them sums of money they have no hope of paying back.

That is why I, along with Congressman DUNCAN, my friend from Tennessee, have re-introduced the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. The bill will take important steps toward reducing credit card debts to college students by requiring credit card companies to determine whether a student applicant has the financial means to pay off a credit card balance before they are approved. It would restrict the credit limit to minimum balances if the student has no independent income, and require parental approval for credit limit increases in the event that a parent cosigns the account.

It is time for credit card companies to be responsible lenders. For the sake of our college students and their futures, it is critical that we pass legislation that prevents credit card companies from plunging young men and women into debt.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address this critical issue facing college students nation-wide, and I urge the House to consider and pass this bill quickly.

INTRODUCTION OF TREAT
PHYSICIANS FAIRLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treat Physicians Fairly Act, legislation providing tax credits to physicians to compensate for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This legislation helps compensate medical professionals for the costs imposed on them by Federal laws forcing doctors to provide uncompensated medical care. The legislation also provides a tax deduction for hospitals that incur costs related to providing uncompensated care.

Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) physicians who work in emergency rooms are required to provide care, regardless of a person's ability to pay, to anyone who comes into an emergency room. Hospitals are also required by law to bear the full costs of providing free care to anyone who seeks emergency care. Thus, EMTALA forces medical professionals and hospitals to bear the entire cost of caring for the indigent. According to the June 2/9, 2003 edition of AM News, emergency physicians lose an average of \$138,000 in revenue per year because of EMTALA. EMTALA also forces physicians and hospitals to follow costly rules and regulations. Physicians can be fined \$50,000 for technical EMTALA violations.

The professional skills with which one earns a living are property. Therefore, the clear language of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment prevents Congress from mandating that physicians and hospitals bear the entire costs of providing health care to any group.

Ironically, the perceived need to force doctors to provide medical care is itself the result of prior government interventions into the health care market. When I began practicing medicine, it was common for doctors to provide uncompensated care as a matter of charity. However, laws and regulations inflating the cost of medical services and imposing unreasonable liability standards on medical professionals even when they were acting in a volunteer capacity made offering free care cost prohibitive. At the same time, the increasing health care costs associated with the government-facilitated overreliance on third party payments priced more and more people out of the health care market. Thus, the government responded to problems created by its interventions by imposing the EMTALA mandate on physicians, in effect making health care professionals scapegoats for the harmful consequences of government health care policies.

EMTALA could actually decrease the care available for low-income Americans at emergency rooms. This is because EMTALA discourages physicians from offering any emergency care. Many physicians in my district have told me that they are considering curtailing their practices, in part because of the costs associated with the EMTALA mandates. Many other physicians are even counseling younger people against entering the medical profession because of the way the Federal Government treats medical professionals. The tax credits created in the Treat Physicians Fairly Act will help mitigate some of the burden government policies place on physicians.

The Treat Physicians Fairly Act does not remove any of EMTALA's mandates; it simply provides that physicians can receive a tax credit for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This is a small step toward restoring fairness to physicians. Furthermore, by providing some compensation in the form of tax credits, the Treat Physicians Fairly Act helps remove the disincentives to remaining active in the medical profession built into the current EMTALA law. I hope my colleagues will take the first step toward removing the unconstitutional burden of providing uncompensated care by cosponsoring the Treat Physicians Fairly Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH
BIRTHDAY OF DR. JAMES L.
PHILLIPS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th birthday of a man that had a profound impact on my life, Dr. James L. Phillips. A native of Sharon, Texas, Dr. Phillips was a skilled athlete and student and attended Washington & Jefferson College on scholarship earning a bachelor's degree in 1954. From there he went on to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In 1968, he became the first African American intern at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Dr. Phillips spent 2 years at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Camp Pendleton, California before joining the Ohio Permanente Medical Center in Parma, Ohio. He remained there for 16 years before going to serve as associate dean for student affairs and minority programs and associate professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University. While there, he created and directed the Health Careers Enhancement Program for Minorities at Case School of Medicine from 1988 to 1993.

Currently, Dr. Phillips serves on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine. In addition to his administrative and educational responsibilities, Dr. Phillips has served on a variety of boards including Chairman of the Harris County Hospital District's Medical Board from 1993 to 1999. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of William & Jefferson College, Bay Ridge Christian College, MidAmerica Christian University, Intercultural Cancer Council, and the Huffington Geriatric Center for Excellence and the Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools. Dr. Phillips has received numerous honors and awards throughout his career.

Dr. Phillips is married to Barbara Phillips, and lives in Missouri City, Texas. He is the proud father of three sons and six step-children.

I first met Dr. Phillips in the late 80s when he was teaching at Case Western Reserve University. He was a stalwart in his support and encouragement of minority students and worked diligently to provide them with opportunities. I am proud to serve on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, a position he encouraged me to seek. Dr. Phillips has and continues to be a role model, teacher, supporter and a dear friend. Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I am pleased to join with the family and friends of Dr. James L. Phillips in celebrating his 75th birthday. May you be blessed with many, many more.

IN MEMORIAL OF DR. NORMAN
ADRIAN WIGGINS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Norman Adrian

Wiggins, who died August 1, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, Campbell University lost her Chancellor, North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

A native of Burlington, North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the United States Marine Corps. After returning from his service to our Nation, he began his educational pilgrimage and earned the Associate of Arts degree from Campbell Junior College, the Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College, the Bachelor of Laws degree from the Wake Forest College School of Law and the Master of Law and Doctor of the Science of Law from Columbia University School of Law.

On June 6, 1967, Dr. Wiggins became the 3rd president of Campbell College and immediately began piloting a new course for the institution. It would lead to the establishment of one of the most outstanding trust management programs in the Nation, an award-winning and nationally recognized Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and the establishment of five professional schools—the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Pharmacy and the Divinity School. He also led in the College's move to university status in 1979. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership, Campbell's educational programs were extended beyond the Buies Creek campus as the University was among the first private schools to offer extended education opportunities to military installations, including Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Base and Camp Lejeune. Dr. Wiggins' most notable international venture was the creation of the partnership between Campbell University and Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a partnership that has lasted more than twenty-five years.

Dr. Wiggins was a devoted Christian; he served North Carolina Baptists at the State and national levels. He was one of only two Baptist college presidents to serve as president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He also served as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the National Fellowship of Men. In May 2003, following a thirty-six year tenure as president of Campbell University, Dr. Wiggins retired. In recognition of his exemplary service, the Board of Trustees named Dr. Wiggins Chancellor of the University. Dr. Wiggins is survived by his wife Millie Wiggins.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Wiggins had a commitment to excellence in everything he did, and he had a way of bringing out excellence in everyone around him. That commitment is evident in all aspects of Campbell University. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership Campbell experienced unprecedented growth in facilities, dollars and quality. The number of students' lives he changed in a positive way is immeasurable. Campbell University, Harnett County and the entire State of North Carolina are better in countless ways because of the efforts of Dr. Wiggins.

INTRODUCING THE COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise, leaving many Americans unable to afford health insurance, while those with health care coverage, and their physicians, struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Furthermore, the predominance of third-party payers means there is effectively no market for individual health insurance policies, thus those whose employers cannot offer them health benefits must either pay exorbitant fees for health insurance or do without health insurance. Since most health care providers cater to those with health insurance, it is very difficult for the uninsured to find health care that meets their needs at an affordable price. The result is many of the uninsured turn to government-funded health care systems, or use their local emergency room as their primary care physician. The result of this is declining health for the uninsured and increased burden on taxpayer-financed health care system.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA), and Flexible Savings Accounts. By giving individuals tax incentives to purchase their own health care, the Comprehensive Health Care Act will help more Americans obtain quality health insurance and health care. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes.

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

C. Makes every American eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA), removes the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy to open an HSA; allows individuals to use their HSA to make premium payments for high-deductible policy; and allows senior citizens to use their HSA to purchase Medigap policies.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Health Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I missed rollcall vote 795, a motion to recommit on H.R. 3159, the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007.

I was detained while meeting with the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. JIM OBERSTAR of Minnesota, to discuss the situation in Minneapolis following the collapse of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 795 because it was a procedural tactic to prevent consideration of the underlying bill.

As a veteran of the Minnesota National Guard myself, I strongly support the aims of H.R. 3159, which would ensure that returning servicemembers receive sufficient time to re-adjust from their deployments before being called up again.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker while I commend the work on H.R. 1, I rise today to express my disappointment that the provision to afford our Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) the collective bargaining rights and whistleblower protections they deserve is excluded from the Conference Report. Mr. Speaker, our TSOs are not second class citizens and should not be treated as such.

In 2001, when the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) was created, Congress vested power to set TSO compensation, leave, and other basic employment rights with the Secretary of Transportation. When TSA was moved to the Department of Homeland Security, this authority remained. While this

authority was helpful in getting TSA up and running, the TSOs now need to be treated like all other TSA employees—fairly and equitably. This provision would have restored the labor rights of approximately 43,000 TSOs and provide them with veterans' preference, anti-discrimination protections, retirement, whistleblowing, and collective-bargaining rights.

Restoring basic employment rights is critical to recruiting and retaining TSOs. We do not need to look far to see what low morale can do to the health, recruitment, and retention of the Department of Homeland Security workforce. According to a GAO report released this month, TSOs account for approximately a third of the total workforce and their attrition rates are higher than normal for the federal government. It is unfortunate that we are failing to provide the most basic labor protections to our front line workers who perform an important job and work to keep us all safe; rights that are afforded to thousands of workers in the federal government.

I commit to my colleagues today that as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security I will continue to work to ensure that our TSOs are afforded the rights and protections they deserve.

Additionally, the following individuals did a service to our nation in helping the Conference develop legislation to make America more secure: Michael Stroud, Denise Krepp, Véronique Pluviose-Fenton, Alison Rosso, Jacob Olcott, Chris Beck, Matt Washington, Jeff Greene, Erin Murphy, Michael Beland, Erin Daste, Tamla Scott, Tyrik McKeiver, Stephan Viña, Diane Bean, Brian Turbyfill, and Angela Rye.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that a lot of staff work went into getting us here today, and I would like to especially thank: My staff director, Jessica Herrera-Flanigan; and my chief counsel, Rosaline Cohen, as well as her predecessor, Todd Gee.

I don't mean to brag but I believe I have the best and most diverse professional staff on the Hill. A few of them are here with me on the floor. I also would like to acknowledge: the Committee's very able clerk, Michael Twinchek; Ranking Member KING's staff—most especially Rob O'Connor and Michael Power; the folks at Legislative Counsel that brought it all together—Hank Savage and Hadley Ross; Mike Sheehy and Jerry Hartz with the Speaker's office; and Rob Cogorno and Mariah Sixkiller with the Leader.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
CORPORAL ANGELO VACCARO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today as I entered the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and approached the Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters, I saw the name "Vaccaro Hall." This morning the United States Army dedicated Vaccaro Hall in honor of my constituent, Corporal Angelo J. Vaccaro, from Deltona who lost his life performing heroic actions in Afghanistan. It was my honor to personally congratulate Corporal Vaccaro's wife, mother and father on the well deserved

recognition of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro's heroic actions.

The late Corporal Vaccaro, his wife and parents have been part of the Seventh Congressional District in Central Florida. His distinguished service to our country as a medic in the United States Army earned Corporal Vaccaro the honor of being the first member of the Armed Services to receive two Silver Star medals during the Global War on Terror.

Corporal Vaccaro was the loving husband of Dana and the youngest son of Nelson and Linda Vaccaro. He led by example and never boasted of his accomplishments and efforts on the battlefield.

Born in New York, Corporal Vaccaro moved to Deltona, FL where he lived until he joined the Army on March 14, 2004. According to family and friends, Corporal Vaccaro had found his place in life as a medic with the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Corporal Vaccaro's honorable service to our nation included a deployment to Afghanistan. He conducted more than 140 patrols and heroically risked his life in order to save the lives of fallen comrades. On one such occasion, Vaccaro's platoon came under heavy enemy fire and Vaccaro and four others suffered significant injuries. Ignoring his wounds and still battling Taliban forces, Corporal Vaccaro used his own body to shield fellow soldiers from the enemy while he dragged the wounded to safety and began emergency medical treatment. Corporal Vaccaro's actions during this battle earned him his first Silver Star.

Corporal Vaccaro's second Silver Star was a result of his final heroic actions that saved two of his injured comrades in need of immediate evacuation from the battlefield. While serving as the senior line medic at the Koregal Outpost in Afghanistan, Corporal Vaccaro learned that members of his platoon had come under attack by Taliban forces and that two of them required immediate medical attention. Despite being informed that an ambush was in place for any attempted rescue efforts, Corporal Vaccaro volunteered for the mission without hesitation. Soon after reaching the battle site and while assisting in the successful evacuation of all the wounded, Corporal Vaccaro was struck and killed by a rocket propelled grenade. The country lost a true American hero.

In addition to the Army naming the building that houses Walter Reed's Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters to Vaccaro Hall and the two Silver Star medals, Corporal Vaccaro earned two Purple Hearts and the Army's Bronze Star for his actions during battle. In June the Army named Fort Drum's new state-of-art medical training facility that was opened on the day that Vaccaro was killed in battle, the Bridgewater-Vaccaro Medical Training Simulator Center.

Madam Speaker, with the passing of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro, America has lost a hero, an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a loving husband, beloved son and a friend to numerous others. It was a pleasure to have attended the dedication of Vaccaro Hall at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and I am proud that those visiting Walter Reed will be reminded of Corporal Vaccaro's heroic sacrifice on behalf of his fellow Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM
FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the States. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

SUPPORT FOR JUAN AND ALEX
GOMEZ

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Juan and Alex Gomez, two brave and talented young men in Miami who are struggling to remain in the United States and contribute to the only country they have ever really known as their homeland.

Juan and Alex Gomez came to the United States from Colombia when they were just toddlers. Throughout their lives they worked hard in school and played by the rules.

A model student, Juan is now 18 years old and he recently graduated at the top of his class from Miami Killian High School. Juan earned high scores on 15 Advanced Placement exams and a nearly perfect score on the SAT.

Just a few days ago, Juan was looking forward to beginning college at Miami Dade College's Honors College. But sadly, today Juan and his family are at risk of deportation.

Juan's friends and classmates learned of his imminent deportation and decided to take matters into their own hands. Twelve teenage friends quickly organized a trip to Washington to enlist the support of Members of Congress. Madam Speaker, yesterday I met with Juan's classmates.

The passion and determination with which these students advocated on behalf of their friend is nothing short of inspirational. Working with immigration lawyers, members of the press, and Congressional offices, Juan's friends are advocating for a fair immigration policy while emphasizing the benefits Juan and Alex bring to the United States and vice versa.

I commend these young people for their true leadership and true public service; they are an inspiration for their entire generation. Because of their outreach to Members of Congress from Florida on both sides of the aisle, and the support of several others, we learned yesterday that the Gomez boys have received a 45-day temporary stay of deportation.

I thank and commend my colleagues who have diligently worked to intervene on behalf of Juan and Alex.

Senator BILL NELSON, Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congresswoman ILEANA ROSLEHTINEN, and Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART have worked in a bipartisan fashion to bring justice to the teenagers.

Throughout the next month, we must continue to work with immigration officials to make sure that Juan and Alex can remain in the United States.

This case brings increased attention to the need for Congress to pass legislation like the DREAM Act, which would allow students like Juan and Alex, who have grown up in the United States and are pursuing higher education or military service, the opportunity to realize the American dream.

In this increasingly competitive market, the United States must not forfeit the talent that students like Juan and Alex can contribute to our Nation.

Additionally, one has to question what is going on in our system, when rather than fo-

cusings their limited resources on criminals who are here illegally, our immigration officials are going after academic all-stars like Juan Gomez.

Madam Speaker, I would like to close with Juan's own words describing the motivation that has kept him and Alex optimistic despite all odds.

Juan wrote, "Our whole family has worked hard in order to better ourselves in the country we call home. Academically, we have both strived and succeeded with hopes that our accomplishments would outshine our immigration status. All of our hard work will hopefully allow us to continue living and contributing to this wonderful country."

I call on my colleagues to learn more about this case and to work to enact legislation that will allow talented students like Juan and Alex, who have benefited from our Nation's public education system, to continue to contribute to the country that has given them hope.

VIRGINIA NEEDS AMERICA'S HELP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the State of Virginia has had it with illegals feeding off of their State and want them sent back to their homeland.

So, Virginia is asking the Federal Government for help. Seeking funds and training available for States under the 287(g) program. This Federal program trains local and State law enforcement in immigration laws. Virginia aims to train every staffer at jails across the State on how to check immigration statuses and deport illegals.

But when the State asked the Federal Government for help, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, said no. The reason: ICE says it lacks resources, including funding and personnel, to make that commitment to Virginia.

Currently, there are 22 State and local agencies that have entered into agreements with ICE to be trained on the 287(g) programs; 65 more are waiting for approval. But because the Federal Government is not providing ICE with the necessary funds, law enforcement won't get trained and illegals won't get deported.

Maybe some of the pork earmarks going to study the lifecycles of fish should be used in this immigration battle.

Madam Speaker, this is absurd. Once again, illegals are getting a free pass to the U.S. due to the ineptitude of the Federal Government and its inability to cooperate with local cities that want to help stem the flow of illegals into our homeland.

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MANUELITA GUAJARDO
JUAREZ 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. I rise today to honor Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez on her reaching

her 100th birthday. She is an inspiring member of the community in Laredo, TX.

Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez was born on July 30, 1907 in Laredo, TX. She is the third child to Manuel Guajardo and Rafaelita Esparza Guajardo. Her siblings were Abelino, Adela, Jose, Alberto, Guadalupe, Elija, and Tomasita. As a child, she attended the El Profesor Dominguez School. Her father worked for the Tex-Mex Railroad Company and moved his family to a Tex-Mex substation named "El Pescador" where she attended school for several years.

In 1918, at the tender age of 11, she lost her mother to the influenza epidemic that hit Laredo in late 1918. Her father then moved his family to a ranch in Devine, TX, to live with his brother, Guadalupe Guajardo and his family. Manuelita's father lived at the ranch until he passed away in 1924 and is buried in Big Foot, TX.

Manuelita stayed in Devine until she married Victorino Juarez on May 14, 1930 at San Jose Catholic Church in Devine. She returned to Laredo as a young bride and lived with her in-laws in a home located several blocks from San Agustin Cathedral. Manuelita and Victorino Juarez are the parents of three daughters: Maria Minerva Juarez Ramirez from San Antonio, TX, Rosa Alicia Juarez Sciaraffa, and Amelia Juarez Magallanes, who reside in Laredo, TX. Manuelita still lives at 803 O'Kane Street in a home her late husband bought in 1937.

Every morning up to the age of 99, she watered her plants that surround her home. Because she can no longer do this, her daughters now attend to her garden. Gardening and sewing have always been her two favorite hobbies. Manuelita has 15 grandchildren who live throughout Texas, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She is the proud matriarch of five generations in her family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE
ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing, along with Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) and Representative ROBERT BRADY (D-PA), the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, a bill that will ensure that a greater number of Americans are covered for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer screening. This legislation will increase the access to cancer screening exams for patients of private insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1,500 Americans die of cancer every day. Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least.

Many advances have been made, but the key to survival is early detection. It is esti-

mated that the rate of survival would increase from 80 percent to 95 percent if all Americans participated in regular cancer screening. By providing increased access to screening procedures, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act would help save the lives of many Americans from this deadly disease.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAS VEGAS
FIRE & RESCUE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for celebrating their 65th anniversary serving the Las Vegas community.

The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue got its start in 1906 as the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department located in downtown Las Vegas on Fremont Street. Through the 1920s, the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department was the only department in southern Nevada to serve the construction of the Hoover Dam and the newly constructed army base, now known as Nellis Air Force Base. In 1942, volunteer firefighters petitioned at City Hall to create a full-time fire department. On August 1, 1942, the first 16 full-time employees of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue began their shift.

Today, the department has 16 stations across the Las Vegas valley and oversees more than 650 employees. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is one of eight departments in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and to hold a Class One rating from the Insurance Services Offices, Inc., making it one of the safest departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Las Vegas Fire & Rescue and the men and women who make up the department. To risk their own lives on a daily basis for the safety of others is truly commendable. I applaud Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for its leadership and wish the department continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. VIRGINIA
GUFFEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor Ms. Virginia Guffey, who on August 12, 2007, will be honored at the U.S. Steel Yard by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club for her 58 years of service at U.S. Steel.

Virginia Guffey was born in the town of Seymour, Indiana. Until 1949, she worked at the National Veneer and Lumber Company in Seymour. At that time, she was told that her services were no longer needed. Not to be discouraged, Virginia traveled north to seek one of the many employment opportunities in Gary, IN. That same year she was hired at U.S. Steel, and as they say, the rest is history. In the beginning she lived with relatives in order to send her earnings back home to Sey-

mour to support her parents and siblings. Virginia eventually settled in Merrillville, IN.

It is important to understand that Virginia was one of only 300 women working in a workplace dominated by males at U.S. Steel. The small group of 300 women is epitomized by Virginia, who demonstrated strength of character and devotion to her career, and over time she persevered to gain acceptance and make great strides to ensure women's equality in the workplace. Fifty-eight years later, her loyalty to U.S. Steel and passion for her job still burns strong. Virginia is now an inventory clerk in the tin division's coating-packaging warehouse. At 82 years old, she does not intend to retire any time soon.

Virginia has overcome a life of hardships and discrimination with courage and determination. She is a dedicated employee who loves her work and who greets each workday with enthusiasm. Her optimism and tenacity are an example to us all. Her strong work ethic and positive attitude have earned her the respect and admiration of not only her co-workers, but of every person who has the pleasure of knowing her.

One such person is Chester Lobodzinski, founder of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club, an organization for retired and current employees in the steel industry. Mr. Lobodzinski accurately painted a portrait of Virginia when he stated, "Virginia's work ethic of pride, dedication, concern, and 150 percent effort takes a back seat to no one. She is not just an employee at U.S. Steel, but is a living legend whose survival in life can be credited to her very positive attitude, combined with her many true class of friendships."

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Virginia Guffey as she is honored for her longevity and unmatched commitment to her job. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to U.S. Steel is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent her in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF
AMERICA'S UNSUNG HERO,
THOMAS A. O'ROURKE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on June 26, 2007, the world lost one of America's unsung heroes when Thomas A. O'Rourke, originally of Ramsey, New Jersey, succumbed to a bone marrow disease known as Myelodysplastic syndrome.

At the height of the Vietnam war, Tom O'Rourke sought out service to his nation, as both his mother and father had done before him. During college, Tom attended United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and sent to flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." As a naval aviator, he headed off to Vietnam to fly AH-1G Cobra helicopters.

Tom retired as a captain and went to work for Bell Helicopter International as a test pilot and then as manager for their Maintenance Test Flight Division in Iran. In the true spirit of lifelong allegiance to the values of the Corps

and to his comrades still serving and yet to serve, he ensured the safety and effectiveness of their aviation equipment from his new place in the private sector. Tom later worked as the contracting administrator for the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and then in a number of capacities for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, protecting the natural resources of those lush lands.

Tom also found time to pursue personal interests, like scuba diving, travel, and softball—both as player and as coach. He spent a wonderful life with his wife of 28 years, Lohna; his son Kevin Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Casey; and his beautiful granddaughter, Mallie. Tom's son not only carries on his father's name, but also the proud family tradition of service as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps.

Tom O'Rourke's place in this world is not easily filled; he touched so many lives with such sincerity of spirit. But his courage and determination and sense of fellowship live on with his family and friends. And, I join them in celebrating this heroic life.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA SHOMAN ON
HER APPOINTMENT TO FOREIGN
MINISTER OF BELIZE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the New York *CaribNews* newspaper the week ending July 17, 2007 titled "Ambassador Lisa Shoman: Belize's First Female Foreign Minister," and honor the contributions of Ambassador Shoman to Belize and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a trailblazer and a pioneer in many different areas. She has often taken the path less traveled, excelled in her chosen field and created opportunities and hope for women in her country. Known to be a vocal advocate of women's issues, she used to conduct free legal clinics for women and has helped draft domestic violence, sexual offenses and sexual harassment legislation for Belize.

In 2000, Ambassador Shoman was selected as the first woman to serve as Belize's ambassador to the United States, permanent representative to the OAS and high commissioner to Canada. She proudly represents a country that is a model of racial tolerance and cultural harmony and a beacon of multicultural plurality and while ambassador worked tirelessly to train the people of her nation and educate policy makers about its many virtues.

In June 2007, she led the Caribbean ambassadors in a working group with congressional staff to identify and prepare a substantive agenda for the CARICOM Presidents and Prime Minister Summit in Washington, DC, that addressed the core issues in the U.S. and CARICOM bilateral relations. Ambassador Shoman was instrumental in putting this summit together. She clearly articulated the goals of these meetings and insisted that tangible results should be accomplished. She deserves a great share of the credit for a summit re-

garded by everyone as a great success in achieving a new enhanced framework for consultation and cooperation between the governments of the United States and the CARICOM nations.

Since the Summit, the U.S. Secretary of Education is scheduled to travel to the region to provide assistance in expanding tertiary education programs in the CARICOM nations. The Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in response to the concerns expressed by the leaders of CARICOM, held a hearing on that examined the effects criminal deportees are having on Caribbean nations. The administration and senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have committed to a renewal of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to guarantee special access to the U.S. market for exports from the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interests of the people in the Caribbean and Latin America. I look forward to continue to work with her in her new capacity as foreign minister of the great country of Belize.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 17, 2007]

AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN BELIZE'S FIRST
FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER

(By Tony Best)

BELMOPAN.—Lisa Shoman was sworn in as Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, recently at a quiet ceremony at the residence of Governor General Sir Colville Young.

The first female Foreign Minister, in her characteristic style, insisted on having her grandmother at her side to hold the bible while she took her oath of office.

According to her father, Yasin Shoman, her mother, Hilda Hoy Shoman could not stop the young Lisa from heading out on to the then rough campaign trail in the Cayo district. From the outset, Lisa proved to a shrewd observer with a knack for dealing with difficult people and talking to even the most hostile with a natural ease. She also proved to be one of the best polling agents and counters that an unbiased campaign manager could want. She has never missed a campaign since, serving in Cayo, Freetown, Caribbean Shores, San Pedro and Port Loyola, and on the PUP's National Campaign Committee.

According to Lisa Shoman's family, they always knew she would study law, a natural for this feisty advocate, and she remained fiercely focused on her path, winning scholarship after scholarship; from high school to sixth form to university and doing exceptionally well at CXC's, O and A levels.

At 24, Shoman returned to her beloved Belize fresh from law school and went to work at the DPP's office. After her return from doing a Masters Program in Barbados at UWI, Shoman returned to private practice at Young's Law Firm and during the five years she was there, also devoted time to community service, giving talks and lectures to a variety of groups, and serving as the first female president of the Belize Bar Association.

She is perhaps best known as a vocal advocate of women's issues, appearing on radio and television programs, conducting free legal clinics for women, working with Women Against Violence (WAV), and helping to draft Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Sexual Harassment Legislation. During those years, Shoman worked on children's issues, and served as legal advisor to the Toledo Maya Cultural Council on land rights issues. She also lectured Constitutional and

Administrative Law for UWI's Challenge program and the UB Paralegal program.

After the 1998 election, Shoman was chosen by the PUP Administration to be the Government of Belize's representative to the Board of Directors of Belize Telecommunications Limited, and was duly elected as Chairman, serving for an eventful two year term, while on her own in private practice, and then going into partnership with Michel Chebat.

In July 2000, Prime Minister Musa tapped Shoman to serve as Belize's Ambassador to the United States, as well as Permanent Representative to the OAS, and High Commissioner to Canada, the first woman to be so honored. She has now served for almost seven years, under four Belizean Foreign Ministers and is currently the deputy dean of Ambassadors at the OAS.

Shoman has been a member of the Belize-Guatemala negotiating team since her arrival in DC and has been a part of virtually all negotiating meetings under the auspices of the OAS. In a difficult and delicate phase in 2004, she was sent by PM Musa as his Special Envoy to Guatemala for two months, just prior to the publication of the historic Facilitators Report.

She has served with three OAS Secretaries General and was able to attain Belize's membership in the Grupo Centro Americano (GRUCA) caucus of ambassadors, thereby gaining for her country the singular honor of being the only country at the OAS to belong to two regional groups, CARICOM and GRUCA. Shoman has served twice as regional coordinator and chair of both groups for the customary six month term.

Shoman was given Mexico's highest honor to a foreign Diplomat, in the highest grade—the Order of the Aztec Eagle. Lisa Shoman also earned the Order of Jose De Marcoleta in the Grade of Grand Cross later that same year from the Republic of Nicaragua. At the OAS, Ambassador Shoman served two 18 month terms as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, and also Vice Chair of the Permanent Council and has chaired several key meetings of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT VICKIE
ORCUTT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that Command CMSgt Vicki Orcutt of Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO, has retired after 29 years of service.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt joined the Air Force in the mid-1970s. In her current role, she advises the Wing Commander on matters related to the health, morale, and welfare of the enlisted force and on matters related to the proper training, equipment, and utilization of enlisted personnel. Throughout the entire Air Force there are 138 Command Chief Master Sergeant positions. Only nine are women.

In her early years, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt obtained a degree in Human Resources. She is now considering a teaching

job and hopes to stay in Lafayette County, MO, her current home.

Madam Speaker, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt has been a valuable asset to Whiteman Air Force Base and the entire Nation. She has helped to shape the future of the Air Force through her dedicated service of 29 years. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt.

BROKEN PROMISES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last night, Republicans offered a motion to recommit the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would have sent the bill back to the Appropriations Committee “promptly” for them to amend. But that didn’t happen.

Instead, Democrats shut down the vote when it looked like the outcome wasn’t going to come out in their favor.

Last night’s Democratic tactics amount to the disenfranchisement of American voters.

Four Republicans were not able to cast their vote for their constituents—representing over 2.4 million Americans who were not allowed to have their voice heard.

This is the biggest broken promise to the American people—tax increases, hidden earmarks, budget deficits—none of these broken promises match up to the unfair acts of the Democrat majority last night.

This is not what the American people expect of their elected representatives.

They deserve better and the Republicans in Congress will stand united to ensure they get what they paid for.

In conclusion God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

STAY THE COURSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues here today would have you believe that the war in Iraq, our foremost front in the fight against radical Islam, is lost. They will tell you, Madam Speaker, that the causes for which we fight, causes upon which our own Nation was founded, like the freedom, the worth of the individual and human rights, are not worth fighting for in Iraq. They will tell you that game is over and that the best that the American people can do is turn around and walk away in defeat.

This defeat by retreat lacks wisdom of what war is about. America does not fight wars, so we can lose them by quitting.

This is the time for the United States to stand firm in its commitment to freedom abroad. Now is the time for the United States to build up this sprouting democracy, rather than let it be torn down by those who would seek to destroy all of us who believe in liberty.

Surrender has never been the American way, Madam Speaker. Since our Nation’s in-

ception, we have stood for what is right, even when all odds were against us. Let us follow in the footsteps of those who came before us, those who risked everything in order to preserve freedom for all.

And that’s just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO CITY OF SCHERTZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Schertz for being named one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine.

The City of Schertz was founded in 1843, and is the largest city in Guadalupe County, which encompasses a part of the 28th Congressional District. Schertz is located between the large metropolitan areas of San Antonio and Austin, but has retained its small-town, community feel which was noted by Money Magazine. Schertz is home to over 34,000 Texans that enjoy all the city has to offer such as its Fourth of July Jubilee which draws visitors from all over Texas.

Schertz has witnessed unprecedented growth since the late 1980s. From 2000–2005, the city’s population went from 18,694 to 26,463. In the past year, that population rose by over 7,000 to 34,000. The growth is attributed to the city’s vibrant economy, its schools, and the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. It is clear why Schertz is No. 40 on the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine. In the State of Texas alone, it is ranked as the No. 1 place to live.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the City of Schertz for their being named one of the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives DEBORAH PRYCE and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am reintroducing legislation that would combat human sex trafficking by using the Tax Code to put traffickers in prison. Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. However, trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. In addition to the men, women, and children from around the world who are brought into the United States for the sole purpose of being bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex, in many communities, the victims themselves are Americans.

The legislation would authorize \$4 million toward the establishment of an office within the IRS Criminal Investigation Division to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws.

This office would coordinate closely with the existing task forces in the Department of Justice that are focused on sex trafficking offenders. The IRS would be directed to focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay taxes where the taxpayer is an “aggravated” non-filer. Additionally, the provision establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file, to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. The aggravated failure shall carry a maximum sentence of 10 years per failure and shall increase the penalty from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000. The legislation also increases other penalties for underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

The bill works to the benefit of the women and girls that are victimized by the traffickers not only by removing the traffickers from the streets but also by revising the IRS whistleblower provisions that are currently in place so that the women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation of the trafficker will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately receive some payment for their participation.

This bill will provide the IRS with the necessary resources to prosecute traffickers, pimps, and sex tour operators and recover their illicit profits. It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry and punish the predators who exploit them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIDA LIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida Chan Lin for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Las Vegas community.

Vida Chan Lin has been an outstanding member of the Asian Community in Nevada for more than ten years. She currently serves as the vice-president for both the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Organization of Chinese Americans. In addition to these prestigious roles Vida also has the honor of being a founding member of the Nevada Asian American/Pacific Islander Leadership Council, and in 2002 she worked on the fundraising committee of the Japanese American Citizens League national convention. She has also served on the Clark County Business Development Advisory Council, and was a member of the Clark County Library District Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Advisory Committee.

Vida’s positive attitude and passion for service in the Asian community has made her a well respected leader and role model for younger generations. Members of her chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans have characterized her as the “Queen Bee” of their growing family and state that without her, they would not be where they are today. Vida’s efforts and accomplishments provide an atmosphere for others to learn and benefit from her exceptional leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vida Chan Lin. I would like to personally thank her for her dedicated service to our community, as well as for her support of the Asian Pacific Islander community in Las Vegas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEON WEST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Leon West. I can truly say that Leon is one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. I have known Leon for many years, and he is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the Democratic Party and the people of the First Congressional District. For the past 14 years, Leon has been a constant fixture in Porter County, serving as chairman for the Porter County Democratic Party, and more recently, as First District chairman. At the age of 72, Leon has decided to retire from these posts to spend more time with his family, but his efforts over the course of his tenure and the impact he has had on transforming the government in Porter County will forever be remembered. To honor Leon, a farewell reception will be held at the Woodland Park Community Center in Portage, Indiana, on Monday, August 6, 2007.

Leon West was born in Osceola, Arkansas, on September 17, 1934. He was one of six children. Known for his passion and unwavering devotion to the betterment of his community, it is no surprise to learn that Leon, as a young man, served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959 and again from 1961 to 1962. While serving his community in various capacities throughout his lifetime, Leon came to be known for his strong work ethic, a trait he undoubtedly developed during his 42 year career at United States Steel.

Early on, Leon knew that the best way to improve his community and to help the people of Porter County was to get involved in public service. In each of his roles, Leon focused on the same goal, to make a difference in society, starting with his own community. Some highlights of Leon's career include his service on the Portage Board of Zoning Appeals, his 18 years on the Portage City Council, and his service on the Porter County Council. In addition, Leon further demonstrated his commitment to the people of northwest Indiana through his membership with the Portage Jaycees, the Exchange Club, Dunes Lodge #741, and the Shriners, to name a few. It was through his work with the Jaycees that Portage, Indiana, received its status as a city in 1968. He has also served on various councils and boards. From issues ranging from taxes and transportation to caring for the elderly, Leon West has always been an active participant in seeking to improve his community in every way possible. For his efforts, he was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash in 1997 by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon.

While his everyday presence will be missed in northwest Indiana, Leon will now have a chance to fully commit his time to those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Leon's commitment to his community is surpassed only by his love for his family. Leon and his loving wife, Beverly, will soon be moving to Texas, and they plan to spend as much time as possible with

their three children: Kathy, Kerri, and Ken, and their adoring grandchildren: Blake, Paige, Andrew, Claire, Duncan, and Lou.

Madam Speaker, Leon West has selflessly given his time and efforts to the people of the First Congressional District and to the Democratic Party in northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 SUSSEX COUNTY SENIOR OF THE YEAR, MARIA RATH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Maria Rath of Hainesville for her kind and generous service to her community. In her retirement, Maria has turned her tremendous energy and heart into a true blessing for all of Sussex County. Next week, her good deeds will be recognized at the State Fair when she is named the 2007 Sussex County Senior of the Year. I join my Sussex neighbors in honoring her for her work.

Maria has established the Bread of Life's Ministry, a one-woman show distributing donated baked goods to area food pantries and families in need. She has partnered with places like Panera Bread, Manna House, and Sussex County Technical School to take their donations of leftover bread, repackaging it, and distribute it to institutions like Liberty Towers and Nutrition Center, Brookside Apartments, the Newton Adult Day Care Center, First Presbyterian Church of Sparta, and, my own church, Lafayette Federated Church. In addition to her regular rounds, Maria will take whatever extra time or effort is necessary to help a family she hears may need her loving touch.

In addition to this important project, Maria and her husband, Wilbur, started a furniture ministry six years ago. Through that endeavor, they bring household furniture to families in need. Maria also cooks at the Manna House once a month and volunteers at the Newton Hospital labs. Her labors are truly labors of love, bringing joy and hope to people as well as the material goods they need so badly.

Maria notes, "I'm 77, but I feel like 49." Age is no match for a young and vibrant spirit and heart. Maria is an extraordinary example for men and women of all ages, demonstrating the power of a single life to influence so many lives in a very positive way.

CARIBBEAN STATES MAKE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial

published in the CaribNews newspaper the week ending July 31, 2007 titled "St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Launches Poverty Assessment Survey" and an article entitled "Poverty Picture in the Caribbean: Barbados to Undertake Assessment." Both examine the initiatives these countries have taken to address poverty.

As CARICOM nations look to move to a single market economy, they should be encouraged to take a proactive approach to assess poverty in their individual nations. Poverty assessments serve as the key instrument of poverty reduction strategy. They are designed to assess the extent and causes of poverty in a given country and to propose a strategy to ameliorate its effects. Understanding the causes and characteristics of poverty in the Caribbean is particularly important at this time as there are indications that living conditions in some countries have declined in recent years.

The data gathered from these assessments will be used to evaluate the quality of life and living conditions being experienced at the community, family and individual levels, with particular interest and emphasis placed on vulnerable groups like women, and children.

The increases in competition stemming from global economic changes in trade and capital markets, the erosion of preferential market access, the vulnerability of the tourist industry and competition from other destinations, and decline in official capital flows from bilateral sources all present a particularly difficult challenge for the Caribbean. Given this environment, there is an urgent need for countries to pursue policies that will stimulate and sustain economic growth and prioritize investments aimed at reducing poverty and developing human resources. So I commend the leadership of the governments of Barbados and St. Vincent & the Grenadines for the steps they are taking to assess poverty in their countries.

[From CaribNews, July 17, 2007]

ST. VINCENT LAUNCHES POVERTY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT, CMC—St. Vincent and the Grenadines has launched an EC\$2 million-dollar (US \$749,000) poverty assessment programme that Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said would be welcomed regardless of the outcome.

"Only on the foundation of truth we can build efficacious policies," Gonsalves said as he addressed the launching of the project on Tuesday. The poverty assessment project will seek to create a profile of poverty on the island and is being funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The last poverty assessment survey was undertaken in 1996 and it found that 37.5 per cent of the population was poor, while 20.4 per cent of the households and 25.7 per cent of the population was indigent, or living below the poverty line.

Gonsalves, who said that poverty reduction is one of the central pillars of his government's programme, said he was prepared to accept the results of the new survey.

He noted that in the event that the assessment showed there had not been a significant enough reduction in poverty, more would have to be done in addition to what is already in place.

"History is replete with failed leaders who want to hear what they want to, they don't last long," he said, blaming the then New Democratic Party (NDP) government of not properly preparing the nation for the quickly changing economy.

He said they were too concerned with keeping spending down, maintaining a surplus on the current account and other things that amounted to simply keeping their heads above water.

The Prime Minister suggested that more concrete policies needed to be enacted to deal with the crippling challenges that globalisation and trade liberalisation was going present to the region.

"There was no preparation on the most critical resource before us, people, to address the changing nature of the colonial political economy," Gonsalves said.

The poverty assessment will be conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago based firm KAIRI Consultants Limited, the same group that did the 1996 assessment.

[From *CaribNews*, July 23, 2007]

POVERTY PICTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN, BARBADOS TO UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT SOON TO FIND OUT HOW MANY LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE, ASSESSMENT TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

(By Tony Best)

With poverty levels running the gamut from about nine per cent in the Bahamas and 18 per cent in Jamaica to 21 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago and almost 60 per cent in Haiti, according to the United Nations, Caribbean governments are extremely sensitive to figures which indicate that poverty was either on the rise or was far too high. That explains why the Arthur Administration in Barbados is gearing up to undertake a comprehensive national poverty assessment, beginning possibly in about a month's time and using a broadened definition of poverty.

Trevor Prescod, Minister of Social Transformation, told the *CaribNews* that it was important for the government to have a firm idea about the full extent of poverty so that it could target more of its programmes, projects and resources to the task of meeting the needs of people living in dire circumstances.

"We haven't had any recent scientific analysis of it (poverty) and we are now into, probably within a month or so, we are going to have a wide assessment of poverty," the Minister said in New York after he signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, the first human rights treaty of the 21st century.

"We are now putting together the kinds of operational management structures to ensure that that assessment is carried out in a very scientific manner," he explained. "We have just established a planning unit within the Ministry of Social Transformation. We are working with the Statistical Department, the Caribbean Development Bank and we are going to have other agencies coming in as well." For instance, the University of the West Indies may be invited to carry out the actual research for the country's human development report, according to Prescod.

"When we get that report we would be in a better position to tell you if there has been any fundamental changes, if we have been able to reduce the numbers" of people living in poverty," he said. The Inter-American Development Bank carried out the last assessment of poverty in Barbados a decade ago and it showed that about 35,000 persons or an estimated 13-14 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line. "Enough time has elapsed that we need to have a new report to see if we have made any dent into that 35,000 that we talk about," Prescod added. "But it all depends on what you use as a measurement for poverty. The IDB dealt with an income consumption analysis and what the Ministry is doing, we now have a broader definition of poverty."

Specifically, it would focus on "social deprivation," taking into account access to

health care, education and other essential services rather than simply zeroing on income and consumption, he pointed out.

However, the approach the government plans to adopt would make it difficult to compare the IDB's rate with any new findings, because the latter would touch on the lives of a broader cross-section of the Barbadian population. That raises the distinct possibility that the actual number of poor people could be higher than in the late 1990s.

"It is going to be very difficult if we now have the new definition to compare it with what occurred with the IDB's assessment," the Minister said.

While he acknowledged that any assessment which showed a rise in poverty could become a political controversy, with the Opposition Democratic Labor Party leading the charge against his Ministry, Prescod said that it was clear that the Arthur Administration had attacked the problem of poverty by eliminating many of the debilitating conditions under which some Bajans had to live. "If we do an assessment we would discover there has been a change, especially in the provision of housing, many of the persons identified the last time around have since been empowered, were retooled by giving skills to those persons who previously had no skills," he argued.

"You would discover that both the Urban Development Corporation and the Rural Development Corporation have replaced the dilapidated houses. On the basis of observation alone, without having the kind of empirical figure to show, there is obvious evidence of an improvement. I think that is what worries the opposition more than anything else.

"We have done a lot of work, especially in the urban and rural communities across Barbados," he said. "We had lots of people living in horrible conditions and we have been able to make substantial changes in the lives of those persons. No one can realistically question the quality of life and the way it has improved in Barbados over the last 10 years or so. We have done exceedingly well."

WANDA A. BROWN: MISSOURI
PRESS HALL OF FAME

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 7th, the Missouri Press Association's Missouri Press Hall of Fame will have as its newest member a person who has devoted her life to community journalism, community philanthropy and community service, all while raising a family of public servants and serving as a business and civic partner with her late husband.

Wanda Brown was born June 16, 1918, in Franklin County, AR. She attended Draughon's Business College in Ft. Smith, AR, from 1936-1938. After graduation, she was business manager for Robbins Buick Motor Company in Ft. Smith. She met her husband, J.W. Brown, Jr., when he came into the dealership to buy tires. They were married June 14, 1946. From 1946 until 1955, they made their home in Willow Springs, MO, where J.W. owned the newspaper and also served as Postmaster. In 1955, they purchased the Harrisonville Democrat-Missourian and formed the Cass County Publishing Company. Under the ownership of J.W. and Wanda Brown, Cass County Publishing Company operated

the Cass County Democrat-Missourian, the Lee's Summit Journal, the Belton Star Herald, the Bates County Democrat and the Lawrence County Record.

Two generations of Cass County residents have known Wanda Brown as the author of a column in the Democrat-Missourian, "Wanda's Favorite Recipes," and have prepared many of them for their families. Few probably are aware that the proceeds from two of her recipe books were given to support The Way Off Broadway Players and the Cass Medical Center Foundation.

With her retirement in 1985, after 30 years as Business Manager of the Cass County Publishing Company, she accelerated her contributions to her community and to the State of Missouri. Wanda Brown has been a generous supporter of the Missouri Press Foundation, the Harrisonville Memorial Hospital, and the Harrisonville Public School Foundation. In her hometown of Harrisonville, she has contributed to the construction of the Harrisonville Baseball Fields, to the Harrisonville High School Bleacher Project, the Children's Library at the Cass County Information Center, and to the creation of a nursing scholarship at the Cass Medical Center. She was a leader in the campaigns to fund the Thermal Imaging Camera for the Harrisonville Fire Department, the construction of the Harrisonville Parks Amphitheater, and the creation of the Harrisonville Public School Foundation Endowment. She also helped to fund the Community Journalism Chair at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Wanda and her family—Larry and Jean Snider, Bill and Mary James, Alex, Doug, Kate, Anne, and Molly. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in commending Wanda for her decades of community service.

PROMOTING TALK RADIO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Sunday will mark the 20th anniversary of the day the Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to abolish the "Fairness Doctrine."

Under President Ronald Reagan's leadership, the "Fairness Doctrine" was removed from our airwaves because it undermined freedom of speech. Reagan was a man who realized that Washington should not tell the press what to write and say. His vision led to the development of the people's forum of talk radio.

In the wake of this decision, talk radio has grown from fewer than a hundred shows to several thousand. Today, radio commentators like Keven Cohen in Columbia, South Carolina, and Bill Edwards in Savannah, Georgia, play a vital role in bringing intelligent and thoughtful perspective to the many issues facing America.

The "Fairness Doctrine" is a relic of a bygone era. Let's keep it a part of our past and not of our future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AMANDA G.
RASH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amanda G. Rash on her reaching the milestone of her 95th birthday. She is one of the most inspiring members of the community in the City of Laredo and in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Amanda G. Rash was born on July 26, 1912, to her parents Carlos and Ana Chapa de Gutierrez in Old Guerrero in the State of Tamaulipas in Mexico. She grew up in the town of Zapata, Texas, where her father was a rancher. Amanda became a certified beautician after high school and opened her own beauty salon in Zapata. In 1937, she met Roy Clifford Rash from Granbury, Texas, and together they raised 3 daughters, Eva Linda, Rose Lee, an Arlene Myra.

As a mother, Mrs. Rash is wholly devoted to her children. She also helped her husband to succeed with his highway construction business, Border Road Construction and Border Materials, in the late 1950s. After her husband's death in 1970, the business continued to thrive under Mrs. Rash's leadership and was sold to their employees in 1973. Her Christian faith has sustained her, and that strength is felt through the kindness and caring she has given to others. Her remarkable mind and wit have served her well in her 95 years. She has been an inspiration to all who know her.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Amanda G. Rash to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

HONORING THE TRUMBULL HIGH
SCHOOL GOLDEN EAGLE MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band on hosting their 25th Annual Fall Classic Bank Competition.

On this silver anniversary, we commemorate the legacy of the band promoting music education through competition. For almost 40 years now, the Golden Eagle Marching Band has been known as one of the premiere marching bands in the country.

The band has represented the State of Connecticut at the 2004 Hollywood Christmas Parade in California and the 54th Presidential Inauguration Parade in 2001. It has also been at the top of the Musical Arts Conference since its inception in 2001 and has won countless awards along the way. In 2006, the band was champion of its division for the third year.

These young musicians benefited from hundreds of hours of practice, competitions, and most importantly memories that last a lifetime. Even after the fall sports season ends, come

December, the music does not stop. Band members continue to bring credit to Trumbull High School by competing in Winter Guard International competitions. In 2007, both groups were finalists in the scholastic world class and in 2005, the winter guard placed third in the country in the scholastic open class.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of staff members and band parents over many years. These unsung heroes keep this organization on the field day in and day out. Without their tremendous support, the Eagles could not have soared to the heights we see today.

The Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band has raised the bar for future generations to proudly represent Trumbull High School and the State of Connecticut. These individuals on the field have embodied hard work, a positive attitude, and concentration. The State of Connecticut is proud of their hard work.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST
VIRGINIA LITTLE LEAGUE
STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Little League State Champions, the South Berkeley Little League team, who hail from West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

The 2007 Little League State Tournament took place in Hedgesville, July 21 through July 26. Fifteen teams from around the State participated in the tournament. The Little Leaguers played in a series of games the first 4 days of the tournament and the finalist advanced to the single elimination series. The championship came down to Berkeley County's own, Martinsburg and South Berkeley Little League teams.

After Martinsburg put up a good fight, South Berkeley finally came out on top in an 8-2 victory, winning their first Little League State Championship in 27 years. The South Berkeley Little League team is managed by Larry Custer and Coaches Chris Cochran and Jess Dusing. The South Berkeley Little League team is made up of thirteen players ages, 11-12, from Bunker Hill and Inwood who all attend Musselman Middle School. The players include: Chance Allen, Tyler Baker, Markie Custer, Caleb Dembeck, Nikki Dusing, Maverick Keller, Denver Luttrell, Alan Mochabee, Andy Mochabee, Austin Owens, Jacob Whitmore, Evan Woolum, and Darrin Zombro.

The South Berkeley team will progress to the Southeast Regional Playoffs this month in St. Petersburg, FL. I wish them the best of luck as they will represent West Virginia very well. I hope to see them advance to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge these young men who participate in America's greatest pastime, the game of baseball. Again, congratulations South Berkeley Little League team.

TRIBUTE TO PORTABLE PRACTICAL
EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION
INC.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Portable Practical Educational Preparation Inc., PPEP.

For the past 40 years, PPEP has been working diligently for rural communities, improving the lives and futures of the people it serves. PPEP has been steadfast in its service to the rural poor, the disenfranchised, the developmentally disabled, at-risk youth, and the migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.

The founding philosophy of Project PPEP is to involve those who are less fortunate in carrying out meaningful programs to eliminate rural poverty—to help overcome the problems faced by rural people by mobilizing public and private resources in support of these programs. Armed with their first grant of \$19,000 from the Office of Economic Opportunity, Project PPEP and La Tortuga became a reality.

On August 24, 1967 John David Arnold, founder and current chief administrative officer, embarked on PPEP's first outreach trip to provide training by touring in a converted 1957 Chevrolet school bus named "La Tortuga"—the Tortoise. This portable classroom allowed PPEP to teach English to migrant workers and taught many people the value of learning vocational and technical skills like driving a car, and improving sanitation and nutrition. La Tortuga was driven all over southern Arizona, taking PPEP's resources to the cotton and vegetable fields and providing educational preparation to African Americans and "Braceros" and their families.

In November 1967, the Arizona Daily Star summarized PPEP as, "a practical education which is brought almost to the doorstep of unskilled and poverty-stricken people in Southern Arizona." As Project PPEP celebrates 40 years of success, these words still ring true.

In the past 40 years, PPEP has touched over 4 million people, developed numerous programs that have become national self-help models, has established 42 field offices operating with 17 group homes servicing over 167 developmentally disabled adults, and has created 13 charter high school campuses throughout Arizona, having graduated over 2,400 students in the past 11 years.

The staff of PPEP has encouraged and enabled many disadvantaged citizens to develop technical skills and computer literacy which has allowed many of them to move from welfare to more productive lives in the job market. PPEP provides a bridge for farm workers, the rural poor and many other disadvantaged individuals.

Due to the support of PPEP, many migrant workers, low income families and the rural poor are building homes, building businesses and building communities of opportunity.

I offer my thanks to the dedicated and committed staff of Project PPEP.

AMERICAN TROOPS AND THE WAR
IN IRAQ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, in a little over a month, this body will receive an official status report from General David Petraeus, the commander of American forces in Iraq, on whether benchmarks of progress set by Congress have been met. A preliminary report issued in July indicated that there has been a failure to meet more than half of those benchmarks, a woeful assessment that has been only further hampered by increased political fracturing in Baghdad. Earlier this week, the largest Sunni political bloc resigned from the Prime Minister's cabinet. Any hope that the political cohesion so desperately needed for real, permanent success in Iraq seems to be lost amid the destruction and divisiveness that continues to impede our efforts.

When we return in September, we will consider whether to continue granting unchecked and unqualified funding for this war—a war that has raged on for 4 long years, a war that has claimed thousands of American and Iraqi lives, a war that has cost nearly half a trillion dollars. And while we debate funding for Iraq, the day-to-day lives of the men and women in uniform deployed are consumed by more violence and uncertainty. Recently, we received news in New Mexico that the life of another of our soldiers has been lost to combat. Like my colleagues, the calls back home to console parents, spouses and children for their loss and the occurrence of somber funerals is more familiar than we ever thought it would be, and for all of us the end to this war cannot come soon enough.

When I return to New Mexico this month, I have no doubt that the war will continue to be the top issue on the minds of my constituents. We all hear the same question: What is Congress doing? I will tell them that we voted to redeploy our troops. That we voted to bring our soldiers home for longer periods of rest. And that we vote to enact key provisions and provide critical funding for the soldiers. However, in the end, the families in my district will want to know when the end will come, when their sons and daughters will be home.

We must bring our troops home, we must end this misguided and mismanaged war, and we must—we must—repair our foreign policy. For if we don't, in the decades to come the reverberations of our mistakes in Iraq will continue to affect our image and our position in the world. Change is needed, and it is needed now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 791, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 792, I would have voted "yea."

- On rollcall No. 793, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 794, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 795, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 796, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 797, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 798, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 799, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 800, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 801, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 802, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 803, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 804, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 805, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 806, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 807, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 808, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 809, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 810, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 811, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 812, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 813, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 814, I would have voted "nay."
- On rollcall No. 815, I would have voted "yea."
- On rollcall No. 816, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CORNELL LEVERETT
MOORE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Cornell Leverett Moore, the esteemed lawyer and activist from Minneapolis. Cornell recently received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in recognition of his exemplary ongoing service to the citizens of Minnesota and the United States. This great honor has doubtlessly found a worthy recipient in Cornell.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Cornell nearly 20 years ago, and he has then become a personal hero to me. I am to this day taken aback by his openness and his willingness to help. Cornell is admired by all of his colleagues, and I am personally blessed to have had such an outstanding teacher, such an involved mentor, and such a good friend for all of these years. In addition to being an outstanding member of the professional commu-

nity, Cornell has set an amazing example through his remarkable ability to make time for everybody in need of his help.

Cornell has nobly lent his efforts to countless civic organizations. He has served as the chairman of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority—in addition to numerous other housing advocacy groups—fighting to ensure that low-income families have a place to call home. He sits on the board of trustees of many institutions of higher learning, including Howard University, where Cornell studied law. With a history of fighting for civil rights in Minnesota, Cornell is now working on increasing diversity within the ranks of Twin Cities-area law firms. He was also elected president of Sigma Pi Phi, the nation's oldest African-American fraternal organization, in its 100th year of existence.

Madam Speaker, a list of the ways in which Cornell has served his community, of his honors and awards, is far too long to detail in one attempt. I am happy to report that Cornell has shown no signs of slowing down his outstanding work. His receiving Kappa Alpha Psi's Distinguished Citizen Award should not be viewed simply in honor of the great things Cornell has already accomplished, but as a milestone. Madam Speaker, you can expect many more great things to come from my friend Cornell.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF DAVID PLUNKETT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Plunkett for his outstanding service while working in my Washington, D.C., office. After 9 years of assisting me in serving the residents of Middle Tennessee, David is retiring from the Hill and moving on to other endeavors.

David's hard work, insight and meticulous work ethic while serving as my legislative director have helped me do my job better. His advice has been immensely helpful to me, and he has been an invaluable source of institutional knowledge for newer members of my staff.

While David's responsibilities have grown over the years, he has maintained his down-to-earth demeanor. He has always been willing to mentor new staff members and take a moment to give a thorough explanation to someone looking for greater understanding of a legislative concept.

The void David will leave is not only measured by his experience and knowledge, but also by his personality. His dry sense of humor and skill at playing the devil's advocate will be missed, and my staff and I know we will also miss the stories of his summer travel adventures with his wife, Vickie.

David, thank you for your hard work over the past 9 years. I wish you all the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL
AMERICA DIGITAL ACCESSI-
BILITY ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act, which is designed to enhance access to high speed internet connections in rural areas like Central and Northern New York, which I represent. Specifically, this legislation, which I have offered in each of the past three Congresses, would provide four incentives to encourage broadband development, thereby reducing the digital divide, creating jobs, and helping to stem migration from rural areas.

First, the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act would authorize technology bonds to provide a new type of tax incentive to help, and even encourage, state and local governments to invest in the necessary telecommunications infrastructure. The technology bonds would further aid these communities' efforts to partner with the private sector to expand broadband deployment in their regions. In addition, the bill's Broadband Expansion Grant Initiative would complement the technology bonds by utilizing grants and loan guarantees to accelerate private-sector deployment of high-speed connections.

Many rural regions, such as Central and Northern New York, have an abundance of excellent institutions of higher education. However, to fully develop the potential of these centers, communities must be able to utilize the resources and expertise offered through these universities and colleges. Thus, the third incentive contained in the legislation would help small- and medium-sized businesses connect with educational institutions to receive the technological assistance needed to enhance their competitiveness and promote economic growth. The final provision of the bill would authorize research funding to increase rural America's broadband accessibility and make it more cost-effective.

Enhanced internet access is necessary to further much-needed economic development in rural areas of our Nation; it is particularly important to my constituents. Seven of the 11 counties I represent have poverty rates greater than the national rate of 12.7 percent and five of my constituent counties have experienced a decrease in their populations since 2000. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MELVIN B. LANE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor a distinguished American, a trusted friend and constituent, Melvin B. Lane, who passed away on July 28, 2007 at the age of 85.

Mel Lane was born in 1922 in Des Moines, Iowa, and moved to San Francisco in 1928

with his family when his father purchased Sunset Magazine, a travel magazine. He graduated from Palo Alto High School and Pomona College and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Stanford University. He married the love of his life, Joan Fletcher Lane, and they had two beautiful daughters, Whitney and Julie.

Mel returned home after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and began working for Lane Publishing Co. and Sunset Magazine and Books. He and his brother, Ambassador L.W. "Bill" Lane, ran Lane Publishing for nearly 40 years, during which they helped make Sunset a national leader in advertising and transformed the book division into a major enterprise with hundreds of successful titles.

In 1965, Mel was drawn into environmental politics when then-Governor Pat Brown appointed him to the post of Chairman of the newly-established San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a partnership of industry, government and the environmental community. Under Mel's strong leadership, the Commission established and implemented a plan to govern use of San Francisco Bay, which supports one of the Nation's busiest ports as well as a wide variety of fish and wildlife. His success on the Commission led to his appointment by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1972 as the first Chairman of the California Coastal Commission. The San Francisco Bay Plan and the California Coastal Plan, both of which were developed under Mel's leadership, still serve to this day as the blueprint for coastal protection around the world. Throughout his tenure on the Commission, Mel was an extraordinary advocate for environmental protection, always arguing that it was crucial to a healthy economy.

After retiring from the Commission in 1977, Mel continued his conservation work with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the World Wildlife Fund, and he helped to establish the California Environmental Trust. He also served as a Trustee at Stanford University from 1981 to 1991, where he created an environmental institute and led efforts to establish a long-range land-use plan on campus in addition to rebuilding Stanford Memorial Church after the Loma Prieta earthquake. He also chaired the Sierra Club's National Advisory Committee, the California Fund for the Environment and the Conservation Foundation. In 1998, he was named Conservationist of the Year by the California League of Conservation Voters.

Mel was well-known amongst his friends and colleagues for his loyalty, his reliability and his quiet strength which he brought to everything he did. He was a man of great integrity and everyone who knew him came away a better person.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a national treasure and an exemplary American who changed the way we think about conservation. Mel Lane was a beloved husband, devoted father and trusted friend. He loved his community and his country, served both with distinction, making our Nation a better place for generations to come.

CELEBRATING BELLA ZELDA
"JEANETTE" KOLBER ON THE
OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great milestone for one of my constituents, Bella Zelda "Jeanette" Kolber. On Sunday, August 5, Mrs. Kolber will mark her 100th birthday, an event that her entire family and many friends are looking forward to celebrating with her.

Born at home on August 5, 1907 to Pearl and Louis Cohn, the first of their six children, Mrs. Kolber has lived in the Ninth Congressional District for decades and the city of Chicago her entire life.

As a child, Mrs. Kolber attended Von Humboldt Elementary School and Wells High School in Chicago. In 1934, Mrs. Kolber married her beloved Leo "Lefty" Kolber. After the birth of their two children, Lois and Marshall, she became an active volunteer with the Bernard Moos PTA and was the PTA president in 1951. Mrs. Kolber enjoyed a long working career. She worked for many years at the Heineman's silk company. She also worked at Marshall Field for almost 20 years in the personal shopping department. After being forced to retire from Marshall Field, due to her age, she was hired by Lord & Taylor, where she worked almost 20 more years, and achieved the highest honors—gold and diamond awards for her outstanding work there.

Mrs. Kolber is an avid ballroom dancer. She has danced all over Chicago, winning trophies at numerous contests throughout the years. From Daley Plaza to the Aragon Theater and the Levy Center to outdoor music festivals and family events, she's never resisted a chance to get up and move to the music. And she's still dancing.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday this year Mrs. Kolber has decided she wants to officially correct an error that occurred years ago. She was erroneously given the name "Jeanette" upon entering elementary school, by a teacher who simply did not like her given name. As a result, throughout her life Mrs. Kolber has gone by "Jeanette," but has recently asked to be referred to by her given name, Bella Zelda. And so, I am pleased to stand up before the U.S. House of Representatives to honor and recognize Mrs. Kolber and to officially recognize her given name.

Above all else in her life, Mrs. Kolber is devoted to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her dear extended family and friends. She has done more than her share of caring for and giving to them over the years. Mrs. Kolber brings great joy and inspiration to her family and close friends and I am proud to join them in celebrating this remarkable woman on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Happy 100th birthday and keep dancing, Mrs. Bella Zelda Kolber.

TRIBUTE TO FAYGO BEVERAGES

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, Faygo Beverages is part of our Michigan tradition, and I rise today to recognize their 100 years of operations.

Faygo was founded in Detroit on November 4, 1907 as Feigenson Brothers Bottling Works by Russian immigrants Ben and Perry Feigenson. The original flavors of Faygo, Fruit Punch, Strawberry and Grape, were based on cake frosting recipes used by the Feigensons in Russia. That is why these, and the flavors they developed later, were and still are so unique.

Throughout the 20th century, Faygo steadily increased its production line. They coined the word "pop," because of the sound made when opening the bottle and are credited with the spreading of the word "pop" instead of "soda" to mean "soft drink" in the Midwest.

The brothers bought their first delivery truck, a 1922 Ford. They produced the soda one day, closed the factory the next day, loaded the product on a horse drawn wagon, and sold it for three cents or two for a nickel. The brand name changed to "Faygo" in the 30s, and after that, in 1935, the company moved to the current Detroit location.

To say that we are proud of Faygo is an understatement. For those of us in Michigan, we grew up with it. In the 40s, "The Faygo Kid" appeared on television, with the famous Detroit line, "Which way did he go? Which way did he go? He went for Faaaaaygo!". In the 60s, Strawberry Soda changed to "Redpop." In the 70s, Faygo became pioneers of one way bottles, twist-off caps and warehouse distribution. Then there's the "Faygo Boat Song," a memory for another generation. That 1970s commercial featured everyday people on a Boblo Island boat singing "Remember when you were a kid? Well, part of you still is. And that's why we make Faygo."

Madam Speaker, as one who grew up as a kid with thousands of others on Faygo pop, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and congratulating this Michigan icon, Faygo Beverages, as it celebrates 100 years with employees and their families at the Detroit Zoo on Sunday, August 5, 2007.

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND
MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This bill invests \$50 billion in our children and our seniors. The minority has had no objections to spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq but objects to \$50 billion over 5 years for our children and seniors. Where are their priorities?

Passing this bill will mean that 5 million more children who are already eligible for SCHIP will be enrolled. That will bring the total

number of children covered by SCHIP to 11 million. Passing this bill will mean a real investment for our children, our seniors, and, indeed, our Nation.

I urge "yes" vote on the CHAMP Act.

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Kingston amendment.

I understand the arguments in favor of importation, but I don't believe that the remedy to solve these problems is to open up our Nation's pharmaceutical supply and distribution system to potentially counterfeit drugs.

Now is simply not the time to open U.S. borders to counterfeit prescription medicines. A new report by the Center for Medicines in the Public Interest scheduled to be released September 30, 2007, projects counterfeit drug sales to reach \$75 billion in 2010, a shocking 92 percent increase from 2005.

According to Peter Pitts, senior fellow for health care studies at the Pacific Research Institute and Director of the Center for Medicines in the Public Interest, "The business of selling fake prescription drugs to unsuspecting consumers is burgeoning, and is a global industry. This underground industry represents a major public health risk for citizens of the world."

The new report estimates counterfeit drug sales will grow 13 percent annually through 2010, compared to just 7.5 percent estimated annual growth for global pharmaceutical commerce.

This amendment is a first step towards opening wide the doors at our borders to drug imports—and thus to counterfeit and adulterated medicines that will jeopardize Americans' health and safety.

We should not compromise the public's faith in the quality and safety of our Nation's pharmaceuticals by opening our borders, dramatically increasing the availability of counterfeit medicines.

Mr. Chairman, I urge strong support for this motion.

**KARCH KIRALY: THE GREATEST
PLAYER IN THE HISTORY OF
AMERICAN MEN'S VOLLEYBALL****HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, this year, the sport of beach volleyball will say goodbye

to its most celebrated player—Karch Kiraly. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge his accomplishments and congratulate him on his retirement from professional beach volleyball. He will cap his illustrious career with the Association of Volleyball Professionals later this month, with a final appearance at the AVP Manhattan Beach Open—a tournament he has won an impressive eight times.

With 148 domestic and international victories under his belt, Karch Kiraly is the winningest player in the history of the game. Remarkably, he has not only won more often than anyone else, but he has won tournaments in each of the last four decades—a feat many consider to be unrepeatable. Clearly, this three-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time AVP MVP richly deserved induction to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2001, six years before his retirement.

The AVP Manhattan Beach Open is one of the most exciting annual events to occur in the 36th congressional district. Each August, thousands of people flock to the beach, just steps from the Manhattan Beach pier, to see the best players in the world compete. A victory in Manhattan Beach is one of the sport's most prestigious honors, and for the last 29 years Karch Kiraly has been there vying for the championship trophy.

From his days as a UCLA Bruin, where he led his team to three NCAA championships, to his professional career as the symbol of beach volleyball, Karch Kiraly has performed with uncommon graciousness and poise. In addition to the AVP Sportsmanship Awards he received in 1995, 1997, and 1998, Kiraly is regarded by friends and fans alike as focused, personable, and refreshingly humble.

While Karch Kiraly is retiring as an active player, he has no intention of leaving beach volleyball. We will miss his trademark pink hat, but as a professional beach volleyball commentator and founder and director of the Karch Kiraly Academy, he will continue to play an active role in influencing the sport he took to new heights.

I am delighted to commend Karch Kiraly for his successful and inspirational career. Fans everywhere will miss seeing him playing—and winning—down on the sand in Manhattan Beach, CA.

**SUPPORTING TITLE V ABSTINENCE
EDUCATION PROGRAM****HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Title V Abstinence Education program. This program provides the abstinence message to teens, as directed by State law.

State law requires that North Carolina schools include in their health education program a message aimed toward prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and "abstinence until marriage education." Schools must stress the importance of parental involvement and abstinence from sex until marriage in disease prevention, as well as teach students refusal skills and strategies to handle peer pressure. Curricula must teach that a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage

is the best lifelong means of avoiding diseases transmitted by sexual contact.

In fiscal year 2006, North Carolina received \$1,248,963 in Federal title V funding. North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction receives the title V funds and uses teachers' salaries as in-kind contributions to meet the required Federal match. The Department of Public Instruction keeps 10 percent of the funds for administration; the remaining funds are given to 101 school districts and 14 charter schools throughout the State. In order to

be eligible, schools must have at least one class of 7th through 12th graders, and schools must comply with the Federal A–H criteria for abstinence education. Funding is distributed based on the number of grades and students each school has; schools receive \$333 per grade and \$1.31 per student in grades 7 through 12. Schools are free to use the money at their discretion as long as they do not violate the Federal Government's eight-point definition of "abstinence education." Staff at the

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction visit school sites on an as-needed basis for general monitoring.

The people of North Carolina have made the choice to provide an abstinence message to their teens, and title V funds help them achieve this goal. I urge my colleagues to support reauthorization of title V and to oppose any provisions that could undermine the choice made by parents in North Carolina to support abstinence education.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1927, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 43, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages (See next issue.)

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1985–2015, S.J. Res. 17, S. Res. 299–305, and S. Con. Res. 43. (See next issue.)

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 109th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs”. (S. Rept. No. 110–141)

Special Report entitled “Summary of Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 109th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 110–145)

S. 428, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–142)

S. 1163, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–143)

S. 1300, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to modernize the air traffic control system, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 110–144)

S. 898, to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer’s disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1183, to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other

physical disabilities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (See next issue.)

Measures Passed:

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act: By 60 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 309), Senate passed S. 1927, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information, by the order of the Senate of Friday, August 3, 2007, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: (See next issue.)

Adopted:

McConnell/Bond Amendment No. 2649, to provide a sunset provision. (See next issue.)

Minneapolis Bridge Emergency Funds: Senate passed H.R. 3311, to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I–35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: (See next issue.)

Coleman (for Bond) Amendment No. 2654, to improve expanded eligibility for transit and travel information services. (See next issue.)

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 43, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives. (See next issue.)

State of Idaho Agriculture College: Senate passed H.R. 3006, to improve the use of a grant of a parcel of land to the State of Idaho for use as an agricultural college, clearing the measure for the President. (See next issue.)

Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office: Senate passed S. 1772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, as the “Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office”. (See next issue.)

Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post: Senate passed S. 1896, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the “Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office”. (See next issue.)

Claude Ramsey Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1260, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the “Claude Ramsey Post Office”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

SSgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1335, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the “SSgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Staff Sergeant Marvin “Rex” Young Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the “Staff Sergeant Marvin “Rex” Young Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Rachel Carson Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1434, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the “Rachel Carson Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1617, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the “Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Leonard W. Herman Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the “Leonard W. Herman Post Office”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Willye B. White Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2025, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the “Willye B. White Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

George B. Lewis Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2077, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20805 State Route 125 in Blue Creek, Ohio, as the “George B. Lewis Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Staff Sergeant Omer T. ‘O.T.’ Hawkins Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 2078, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14536 State Route 136 in Cherry Fork, Ohio, as the “Staff Sergeant Omer T. ‘O.T.’ Hawkins Post Office”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2127, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the “Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Major Scott Nisely Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 2563, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Major Scott Nisely Post Office”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2570, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the “Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Buck Owens Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1384, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Street in Bakersfield, California, as the “Buck Owens Post Office”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2688, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the “Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Frank G. Lumpkin, Jr. Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 2309, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3916 Milgen Road in Columbus, Georgia, as the “Frank G. Lumpkin, Jr. Post Office Building”, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Native American \$1 Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2358, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins

in commemoration of Native Americans and the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

(See next issue.)

Reid (for Dodd) Amendment No. 2653, in the nature of a substitute.

(See next issue.)

Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act: Senate passed S. 163, to improve the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Reid (for Kerry) Amendment No. 2650, in the nature of a substitute.

(See next issue.)

Reid (for Bond) Amendment No. 2651 (to Amendment No. 2650), to strike the title relating to energy emergencies.

(See next issue.)

Reid (for Coburn) Amendment No. 2652 (to Amendment No. 2652), to require appropriate reporting regarding the number of full-time employees for either the Office of Disaster Assistance or the Disaster Cadre of the Small Business Administration, to provide appropriate assistance in the event of a catastrophic national disaster.

(See next issue.)

Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments: Senate passed S. 496, to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

(See next issue.)

Congratulating Poet Laureate Charles Simic: Senate agreed to S. Res. 304, congratulating Charles Simic on being named the 15th Poet Laureate of the United States of America by the Library of Congress.

(See next issue.)

OPEN Government Act: Senate passed S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

(See next issue.)

Reid (for Kyl/Leahy) Amendment No. 2655, of a perfecting nature.

(See next issue.)

Measures Considered:

Protect America Bill: By 43 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 310), Senate rejected S. 2011, entitled "The Protect America Act of 2007", and under the order of the Senate of Friday, August 3, 2007, the bill having failed to achieve 60 votes in the affirmative, the vote on passage was vitiated, and the bill was placed on the calendar.

(See next issue.)

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, all committees be authorized to file legislative and executive reports on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

(See next issue.)

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Nussle Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 2:30 p.m., Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Jim Nussle to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget; that there be three hours for debate—two hours equally divided and controlled for debate between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Budget, and one hour controlled by Senator Sanders; provided further, that Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination.

(See next issue.)

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the provisions of Rule 31, section 5 notwithstanding, all nominations remain in status quo, except the nomination of Reed Verne Hillman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts.

(See next issue.)

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. EX. 308), Timothy D. DeGiusti, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Kevin M. Kolevar, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability).

Dennis R. Schrader, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Tevi David Troy, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services. (Prior to this action, Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration.)

Bradford P. Campbell, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor. (Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

William G. Sutton, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Robert Boldrey, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term expiring May 26, 2013.

James L. Caswell, of Idaho, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mark Green, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania. (Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.)

Thomas J. Barrett, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Lisa E. Epifani, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

Paul R. Brubaker, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation.

David W. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor. (Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

Clarence H. Albright, of South Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

Brent T. Wahlquist, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy. (See next issue.)

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Stuart Ishimaru, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2012.

Routine lists in the Navy. (See next issue.)

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Richard E. Hoagland, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

(See next issue.)

Messages from the House: (See next issue.)

Measures Referred: (See next issue.)

Measures Placed on the Calendar: (See next issue.)

Enrolled Bills Presented: (See next issue.)

Executive Communications: (See next issue.)

Executive Reports of Committees: (See next issue.)

Additional Cosponsors: (See next issue.)

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: (See next issue.)

Additional Statements: (See next issue.)

Amendments Submitted: (See next issue.)

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: (See next issue.)

Authorities for Committees to Meet: (See next issue.)

Text of H.R. 976 as Previously Passed: (See next issue.)

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—310) (See next issue.)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, in accordance with S. Con. Res. 43, at 11:08 p.m., until 12 noon on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page (See next issue.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MILITARY DETAINEES

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing regarding the treatment of detainees from certain members of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 96 public bills, H.R. 3355–3450; 1 private bill, H.R. 3451; and 12 resolutions, H.J. Res. 48; H. Con. Res. 202; and H. Res. 609–612, 616–621; were introduced. **Pages H9704–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9710–12**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2786, to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans (H. Rept. 110–295);

H.R. 2337, to promote energy policy reforms and public accountability, alternative energy and efficiency, and carbon capture and climate change mitigation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–296, Pt. 1);

H.R. 2635, to reduce the Federal Government's contribution to global warming through measures that promote efficiency in the Federal Government's management and operations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–297, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 613, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 110–298);

H. Res. 614, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 110–299);

H. Res. 615, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2776) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation (H. Rept. 110–300);

H.R. 1933, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize and improve the carbon capture and storage research, development, and demonstration program of the Department of Energy, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–301);

H.R. 2773, to enhance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of biofuels related technologies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–302);

H.R. 2774, to support the research, development, and commercial application of solar energy technologies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–303);

H.R. 3236, to promote greater energy efficiency (H. Rept. 110–304, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3237, to facilitate the transition to a smart electricity grid (H. Rept. 110–305, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3238, to promote the development of renewable fuels infrastructure (H. Rept. 110–306, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3239, to promote advanced plug-in hybrid vehicles and vehicle components (H. Rept. 110–307, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3240, to enhance availability of critical energy information (H. Rept. 110–308); and

H.R. 3241, to clarify the amount of loans to be guaranteed under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H. Rept. 110–309, Pt. 1). **Page H9704**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Murtha to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9659**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 820. **Pages H9659, H9681–82**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw H. Res. 609, relating to a question of the privileges of the House. **Pages H9659–61**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:46 a.m. and reconvened at 1:18 p.m. **Page H9663**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:46 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m. **Page H9671**

Motion to Adjourn: Agreed by unanimous consent to vacate the vote on the Wilson (NM) motion to adjourn. **Pages H9668–71**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Hoekstra motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 180 yeas to 237 nays, Roll No. 817. **Page H9672**

Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules: The House agreed to H. Res. 600, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 818. **Pages H9663–68, H9671–75**

Agreed to the Hastings (FL) amendment to the rule by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question. **Pages H9674–75**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Authorizing additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I–35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota that collapsed on August 1, 2007: H.R. 3311, amended, to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I–35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007 and to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 421 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 819. **Pages H9675–81**

Privileged Resolution: On a division of the question of H. Res. 611, relating to a question of the

privileges of the House, the House agreed to the resolution by voice vote. Subsequently, the House failed to agree to the preamble by voice vote.

Pages H9682–85

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Amending the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance: H.R. 3356, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 218 yeas to 207 noes, Roll No. 821. Pages H9685–95

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 612, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 211 yeas to 178 nays, with 12 voting “present”, Roll No. 822.

Pages H9695–96

Motion to Adjourn: Agreed to the Castor motion to adjourn by a yeas-and-nays vote of 270 yeas to 121 nays, Roll No. 823.

Pages H9697–98

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H9671.

Senate Referrals: S. 1983 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and S. 775 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Page H9697

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9672, H9675, H9681, H9681–82, H9695, H9696, and H9697.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H9696–97.

Adjournment: The House met at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

GAO DISTRICT WORK PERIOD REQUESTS

Committee on House Administration: Election Task Force met and adopted a motion that the Chairman be authorized and directed to consult the Task Force by teleconference or other appropriate means to consider any GAO request received during the district work period and determined by the Chairman to require Task Force concurrence. For the purpose of consultation, as described in this motion, all members of the Task Force must be in simultaneous contact.

Prior to this action, the Task Force met to receive a GAO briefing on the status of the Investigation into the FL–13th Congressional District Contested Election. The Task Force was briefed by Naba Barkakati, Senior Level Technologist, Center for Technology and Engineering Applied Research and Methods, GAO.

PRIVATE RELIEF BILLS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law met and approved a motion to request Department of Homeland Security Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of certain private bills.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT; RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 9 to 0, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 3221, the “New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act,” and the bill H.R. 2776, the “Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007”.

The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 3221 under a structured rule. All points of order against consideration of the bill, except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI, are waived. The rule provides two hours of general debate with 15 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of each of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Science and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Labor, Foreign Affairs, Small Business, and Oversight and Government Reform. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report and waives all points of order against such amendments except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. Amendments so printed may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 3221 with or without instructions.

The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 2776 under a closed rule. All points of order against consideration of the bill, except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI, are waived. The rule provides that the substitute amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and that the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of

order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 2776 with or without instructions.

The rule further provides that, in the engrossment of H.R. 3221, the Clerk shall add the text of H.R. 2776, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 3221. Upon such engrossment, H.R. 2776 shall be laid on the table. Finally, the rule provides that, during consideration in the House of H.R. 3221 or H.R. 2776, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of either bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a rule authorizing the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules at any time on the legislative day of Saturday, August 4, 2007 relating to the following measures: (1) A bill to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes; and (2) A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain rules reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any rules reported through the legislative day of Monday, August 6, 2007 providing for consideration of the following: (1) The bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; and (2) A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain electronic surveillance.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1129)

H.R. 1, to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. Signed on August 3, 2007. (Public Law 110-53)

H.R. 2429, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an exception to the 60-day limit on Medicare reciprocal billing arrangements between two physicians during the period in which one of the physicians is ordered to active duty as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces. Signed on August 3, 2007. (Public Law 110-54)

House

No Committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 p.m., Tuesday, September 4

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Saturday, August 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 1 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 2642, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act; following which, at 2:30 p.m. Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jim Nussle, of Iowa, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and after a period of debate, vote on confirmation thereon.

House Chamber

Program for Saturday: To be announced.

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