Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1085: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3461, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1095: Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1141: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2085. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

December 19, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E2621

Since then, the Partnership has grown from simple advertising into a drug prevention and treatment resource. Parents and caregivers can request materials and teaching aids that they can use to effectively address drug and alcohol abuse with their children. A major new initiative now unfolding integrates the latest science and research with the most effective traditional media and digital communication techniques to give parents the tools, resources and support they need to help their children lead healthy lives. This effort—the first ever for the Partnership—will include a Web-based interactive information center, parent-to-parent support network, a national toll-free call center and user-friendly online/offline tools.

Time and time again, the Partnership proves that the media industry can play a very positive role in influencing our young people to turn away from drugs. Fueled by their educational programs and grassroots community outreach efforts, the use of illicit drugs across the country has fallen by almost a third. Adolescent drug use alone is down by 19 percent in just the past 4 years and 32 percent since its inception.

To celebrate the accomplishments and longevity of the organization, the Partnership will kick off its 20th anniversary at its annual gala being held on November 27, 2007 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The Partnership will honor William G. Weldon, chairman and CEO of the Johnson and Johnson Corporation.

In light of this momentous occasion, I congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America on 20 years of outstanding service.

Best known for its national drug-education campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America continues its mission to reduce illicit drug use in America by uniting communications professionals, renowned scientists, and parents.

What began in 1986 as a 3-year endeavor to "unsell" drugs to the American public, has turned into the largest public service campaign in our Nation's history. The pro bono work of some of the country's best advertising agencies across all forms of media has allowed the Partnership's anti-drug message to reach the public on local and national levels for the past two decades.

The organization first entered the wider public consciousness in 1987, with its "This is Your Brain on Drugs" broadcast and print public service announcements, which used the analogy that if a person's brain were an egg, using drugs would be like frying that egg. Another PSA featured a television, a trip to Paris, and a new car all disappearing right under the nose of a cocaine user. Still another that year focused on how a drug-induced high is like diving into an empty swimming pool. All these commercials and print campaigns were praised in a speech given to those involved executively with PDFA by then-President George H.W. Bush in late 1989.

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This victim had a shattered jaw and severed carotid artery, with the bullet initially going into the heart. The victim is still in critical condition, but without the firefighters and medical personnel going into an area where a gunman could still be present, performing their skills flawlessly even with the extreme injuries involved, the victim would not have had a chance.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I commend Patrick Michael, Gerry Gonwicha, Keith Humphries, Joshua Rickabaugh, Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy, Jason Lambert, Joshua Monroe, flight nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar for their amazing actions.

STATEMENT ON THE RETIREMENT OF BUTCH HINTON

HON. IKE SKELTON
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to a dedicated and loyal public servant, Henry L. “Butch” Hinton. On January 4, 2008, Mr. Hinton will retire following a distinguished 37-year career with the United States Government Accountability Office, GAO, capped by 13 years as the Managing Director of the agency’s Defense Capabilities and Management team.

Mr. Hinton began his career with GAO in 1970, rising through the ranks to lead one of its major divisions—the National Security and International Affairs Division, and after an organizational realignment, one of its key teams—the Defense Capabilities and Management team. He is an accomplished subject matter expert on a wide variety of national security programs and policy issues dealing with defense planning and budgeting, force structure and readiness, weapon systems acquisitions, homeland defense, military and civilian personnel, logistics, infrastructure, and business and force transformation. In addition, he has an in-depth understanding of the Federal legislative and regulatory processes.

Through the years, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Hinton in my capacity as both chairman and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. As a result of his work on highly sensitive and complex issues related to military readiness, threats to national and global security, the global war on terrorism, the base realignment and closure process, and human capital management, he has been a two-time recipient of the Comp-troller General’s Award for exceptional effort and achievement of results in support of the Congress and the American taxpayer. He has also received GAO’s Integrity Award, two GAO Distinguished Service Awards, and GAO’s Mentorship Service Award.

GAO was created in 1921 with the mandate to audit divisions—the National Security, all Federal Government operations—wherever they might take place. In other words, the GAO serves as a ‘watchdog’ over the taxpayers’ money—guarding against fraud, abuse, and inefficient allocation of public funds.

GAO evaluations under Mr. Hinton’s guidance and leadership have saved taxpayers billions of dollars. During his career as head of GAO’s National Security and International Affairs Division, and GAO’s Defense Capabilities and Management team, Congress has implemented numerous recommendations resulting from his work. He has also led the work on reports to improve the readiness and capabilities of active and reserve forces, oversight of military operations including the use of contractors, battlefield, non-reporting, transparency over military compensation costs, defense planning in such areas as infrastructure and force protection, and efforts to transform the Department of Defense’s business operations, including the need for a Chief Management Officer.

Madam Speaker, Butch Hinton’s tenure at GAO has been characterized by success on every level. He has served as an example of a truly exceptional public servant. I am sure my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING 10 MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 10 members of the North Chicago Fire Department for going beyond the call of duty to save the life of a 10th district resident.

On November 26 of this year, the fire department was dispatched to the scene of a gunshot victim. Once notified that the victim would not have had a chance.

As the paramedics worked, additional personnel were called to help with patient care and transportation to the helicopter.

At the landing zone site, Commander Keith Humphries met with paramedics Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy and Jason Lambert to set up a safe place for the helicopter to land. The firefighters successfully established a landing zone in very tight quarters and the patient was quickly transferred to the helicopter. Once in the helicopter, Flight for Life nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar took over treatment until the team reached the Level I Trauma Center at Lutheran General Hospital.

Mayor Turnage has presided over more than 700 City Council meetings and he’s missed just six in his 34-year tenure. Two of those absences occurred because he was out of town on city business.