Marine and hydrokinetic devices offer the potential to capture energy from waves, tides, ocean currents, and the natural flow of water in rivers, as well as marine thermal gradients, without building new dams or diversions. The potential for this energy is tremendous. The Electric Power Research Institute has estimated that ocean resources in the United States could generate 252 million megawatt hours of electricity, which given as much support as other types of renewable energy, could be equivalent to 6.5 percent of America’s entire electricity generation.

Moreover, the Department of Energy designated the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, run by the University of Washington and Oregon State University, to develop tidal and wave research projects. Additionally, the Department of Energy’s Marine Sciences Laboratory on the Olympic Peninsula has established a verification program to assess marine renewable resource potential to address and remove environmental roadblocks to deployment, testing to accelerate the integration of large-scale wave power electricity generation into the Northwest power grid, and is essential to establishing a robust basis for industrial investment based on verifiable technology performance, assured cost basis, and environmental performance. Furthermore, two entities in Washington State are far along in deploying tidal energy turbines than anyone else in the United States. Both Verdant Power, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, and the Snohomish County Public Utility District, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, are well underway in their research and development of tidal energy in the Puget Sound and should be seen as test beds for the nation.

The Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act will accelerate these efforts by establishing a research, development and demonstration program at the Department of Energy that is specifically devoted to marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy. The Office will help to develop new marine renewable energy technologies, increase reliability and durability of facilities, reduce manufacturing and operating costs of the devices, help identify and address environmental impacts of marine renewable energy and make sure that such power can be integrated into the national electricity grid.

Importantly, the bill authorizes federal funding for a Marine-based Energy Device Verification Program, which will bridge the gap between design and development efforts and the commercial deployment of marine renewable energy devices. Funds would facilitate the installation and evaluation of marine renewable energy projects in partnership with appropriate federal research institutions and organizations. Information learned will be available for the benefit of utilities, independent power producers, and others in the marine renewable energy development community.

Further, the bill establishes an Adaptive Management and Environmental fund to provide grants for entities to help pay for the regulatory permitting and development of new marine technologies.

Finally, the bill would allow marine energy to qualify for the existing accelerated depreciation tax benefit, which essentially allows marine projects to accelerate the depreciation of their project costs over five years and will help enhance project economic returns for private developers. I urge my colleagues to consider this important bill.

“IN CONCERT”: A POEM BY ALBERT CARY CASWELL IN HONOR OF THE COLBERT FAMILY, THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY, OUR MILITARY BANDS, AND PBS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

In Concert
In the home of The World’s Greatest Democracy . . .
Up upon a hill, our nation gathers as one
Twice yearly
In Concert, on Memorial weekend . . .
And on The Fourth, as her birthday begins.

For treasured moments, which now live on
All in our hearts, which are now born . . .
As when, upon Capitol Hill . . . one family
The Colbert’s, have brought such moments to instill . . . you and me . . .
All, In Concert . . . The Colbert family . . .
And PBS, have so entertained us on TV . . .
As all of our hearts are so thrilled . . .
With such laughter and joy, and such tears so filled.
With some of our nation’s, and the world’s greatest talent billed . . .
As a city gathers on her west lawn . . .
As before the world’s greatest dome, a masterpiece soon dawns . . .
As The United States Capitol, shining moments on a hill!
Beamed across our nation, to give to all such a thrill . . .
When, on a Memorial Day weekend . . .
As a national, we are all so moved to tears . . .
As we so see, the true meaning of courage so here . . .
As we watch our Armed Forces, most selfless stories appear . . .
For no greater glory, or gift could be!
Then Arms and Legs, and precious Lives indeed . . .
All so we may be free, as we fall to our knees!
As out across this great nation, we are all brought to tears . . .
Reminding us all, the true cost of freedom so very dear . . .
And then, on The Fourth of July . . .
As our Nation’s birthday party, so fills the skies . . .
With fireworks exploding on, and off the stage . . .
As we see Jerry’s, Yankee Doodle Dandy talent made across . . .
All there in the glow of our nation’s beloved Dome, it plays . . .
As we’re all so reminded to celebrate . . .
And why we’re so blessed.

But to live in these here United States! As all “In Concert,” as they create!
As children, babies, men and women get up to dance . . .
All in Freedom’s beloved stance!
Whether, country . . . or rock and roll . . .

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2009
HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2009, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy from our oceans and rivers, using the tides, currents, waves and even the thermal properties of our oceans to generate electricity. I thank Senator MURkowski for introducing a Senate companion to this important measure.
These giants up upon that stage, touch all of our very souls... And that most magnificent National Symphony. And those Military Bands and Choirs continually... Take our hearts even higher! For in this city, surrounded by consequence there, is no greater place... on these holidays to be so hence!

Then, up there upon Jenkins Hill... On The West Front of The Capitol, letting all of your hearts be thrilled.


IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BENJAMIN VAN HORN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Benjamin Van Horn of Whitehouse, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ben’s offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Ben brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. He was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Anthony Wayne Academy Award in grades 9–11, received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award and the National Physical Fitness Award, among numerous other academic awards.

Outside the classroom, Ben was a member of Brailley Union Church Youth Group, serving as vice president, was a student leader for Campus Life. He was President of the German Club and active in marching, concert, and jazz band. Ben participated on Anthony Wayne High School’s cross country and track teams, earning varsity letters in both and serving as captain of the cross country team. He has taught hunter safety courses, fire safety courses, and obtained his student pilot license. He has been extremely involved in community service projects. I have no doubt that Ben will employ the lessons of his student leadership as he does among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Benjamin Van Horn on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Ben will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT (LLEHCPA)/MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support to the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention/Matthew Shepard Act (H.R. 1913). On the night of October 6, 1998, Matthew Shepard was brutally tortured and murdered by two assailants because he was a gay man. It has been over ten years since America was shocked by that despicable hate crime, and the time for action is long overdue. Today we take a significant step towards protecting Americans from being violently attacked simply for being who they are.

Hate crimes continue to spread fear throughout our land, as they do to this day. Last year, 18-year-old Angie Zapata, a transgendered woman, was murdered by an assailant who defended himself by saying “it’s not like I killed a straight, law-abiding citizen.” While Angie’s murderer was recently convicted for this hate crime, Colorado is the exception in hate crime laws. Most states do not extend hate crime legislation to protect transgendered Americans, leaving some of the most vulnerable members of society with inadequate protections.

Protecting citizens from violence is one of the fundamental roles of government. This legislation is necessary to ensure that no American has to live in fear of violence simply because of who they are. In 2008, the FBI reported an 6% increase in violent crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans, despite a 1% overall decline of hate crimes in the U.S. As we mark the ten year anniversary of Matthew’s horrific death, and the one year anniversary of the brutal murder of Angie, we must commit ourselves to decide that now is the moment when we push back against the forces of hate.

Opponents of the Matthew Shepard Act have claimed that its passage will result in the criminalization of protected speech—even the imprisonment of preachers for condemning homosexuality. This could not be further from the truth. The Act expressly states that it does not prohibit “any expressive conduct... or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment to the Constitution.” This means that nobody can be prosecuted under the law for expressing their beliefs about homosexuality. The Act specifically targets people who commit violent acts motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of another. It also ensures free speech ensuring that Americans remain free to engage in moral debate, without fear of retribution.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act will help guard against groups and individuals who seek to terrorize entire communities through brutal violence against targeted individuals. With its passage, we will bring about the changes needed to make clear, once and for all, that hatred of LGBTs and other minorities is no longer a conceivably legitimate excuse for violently attacking another person.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JANELLER UNION ON HER OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Janelle Runion of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered appointments to attend the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy. Janelle has accepted the offer to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Janelle’s offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Janelle brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2013. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Janelle attained an impressive grade point average; was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society; participated in Tiffin Columbian’s Student Forum, and was active in the Spanish Club.

Throughout high school, Janelle was a member of the track, basketball, and soccer teams. Janelle demonstrated her dedication and service to her community and peers by being active with the TC Crew Club and by serving as a Tech Center Ambassador. In addition, Janelle utilized her leadership skills by being the secretary of her class for three years and coaching in Tiffin City Schools’ elementary league basketball program. I am confident that Janelle will carry the lessons of her student leadership to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Janelle Runion on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Janelle will excel during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.