

Iraqi threat. These are by any measure grave failures, costing us incalculably in human lives and treasure. Yet from what little we can know about this bill, the solution is to fund more of the same. I would hope that we might begin coming up with new approaches to our intelligence needs, perhaps returning to an emphasis on the proven value of human intelligence and expanded linguistic capabilities for our intelligence personnel.

I am also concerned that our scarce resources are again being squandered pursuing a failed drug war in Colombia, as this bill continues to fund our disastrous Colombia policy. Billions of dollars have been spent in Colombia to fight this drug war, yet more drugs than ever are being produced abroad and shipped into the United States—including a bumper crop of opium sent by our new allies in Afghanistan. Evidence in South America suggests that any decrease in Colombian production of drugs for the US market has only resulted in increased production in neighboring countries. As I have stated repeatedly, the solution to the drug problem lies not in attacking the producers abroad or in creating a militarized police state to go after the consumers at home, but rather in taking a close look at our seemingly insatiable desire for these substances. Until that issue is addressed we will continue wasting billions of dollars in a losing battle.

In conclusion, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this dangerous and expensive bill.

THE ALDER CREEK DROUGHT PROTECTION PROJECT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project Act. This legislation will authorize The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the El Dorado County Irrigation District, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a water storage project on Alder Creek in El Dorado County, California.

The Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project would include the construction of a dam and 31,700 acre foot reservoir that would yield approximately 11,500 acre feet of additional water supply per year. A major advantage of this location is the ability to deliver this water by gravity into El Dorado Irrigation District's existing water delivery system and to the American River to increase in-stream flows for the propagation of fallrun Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout.

Like many communities in the arid West, El Dorado County faces water supply shortages that threaten people, cities, farms and the environment. The El Dorado Irrigation District, which serves over 100,000 of my constituents, is charged with the difficult task of providing a safe and reliable water supply throughout the region for all of these competing interests. Severe drought periods, like we are experiencing now, and explosive growth rates that are occurring in portions of El Dorado County, have made this task even more arduous. EID deserves great credit for developing alternative sources of water, such as recycled water, to ease the burden of inadequate supplies. In fact, all new developments within The El Do-

rado Irrigation District's service area are hooked up to recycled water lines that run in the front and back of the properties which conserves precious drinking water. However, if current trends continue, which all indications say they will, other alternative sources of water will be required in order to keep up with demand. To avoid a crisis, the District is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to protect against multiple-year drought events. The Alder project would be a key component in the Districts overall drought protection strategy that would also include water banking and intergovernmental agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this legislation be given prompt consideration so that the benefits of this important project can be realized in a timely manner.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION ACT OF 2003"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the National Film Preservation Act of 2003, which reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Act of 1996.

We all know that motion pictures are amongst this nation's cultural treasures, going beyond entertainment to represent American ideals and values to people across the world. Unfortunately, the films on which many motion pictures are created are easily susceptible to physical deterioration; in fact, over fifty percent of movies made before 1950 have deteriorated and over ninety percent of movies from before 1929 have disintegrated.

The 1996 Act was designed to ensure that we could protect the treasures we still have. It created the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPB generates public awareness of a national film registry and reviews initiatives to ensure the preservation valued films. The NFPF issues grants to libraries and other institutions that can save films from degradation.

The program has received accolades from organizations such as the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Noted filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Ken Burns also have praised the NFPB and the NFPF.

Unfortunately, the program officially expired October 11, 2003, and was not reauthorized. The legislation being introduced today would remedy that oversight by reauthorizing both the NFPB and the NFPF. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable effort as we move it through the House.

CONFERENCE REPORT H.R. 6

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, among other things, would authorize the promulgation of mandatory and enforceable standards for the North American transmission system by an Electric Reliability

Organization subject to FERC oversight in the U.S. Having been so recently reminded that transmission system failures and system reliability do not respect state or international boundaries, it is essential that this legislation protect consumers in one state from actions or events in another. Under the plain language of new FPA section 215 (j)(3), no state may take any action with respect to the safety, adequacy and reliability of electric service within that State if that action is determined by the Electric Reliability Organization or by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to be inconsistent with any reliability standard. A regional entity that satisfies the requirements of new section 215 (e)(4) may propose to the Electric Reliability Organization reliability standards that reflect regional differences, and the Electric Reliability Organization may approve such proposed standards when justified.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR EPHRAIM AND MRS. CARRIE SUE WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Pastor Ephraim and Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams as they celebrate a personal milestone. On November 22, 2003, Pastor Williams and his beloved wife will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. As their friends and family gather to commemorate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing one of Sacramento's most revered couples a happy anniversary and continued happiness in the future.

For the past 32 years, Mr. and Mrs. Williams have served with great class, dignity, and distinction as the Pastor and First Lady of the St. Paul Baptist Church in Sacramento California. As Pastor, Mr. Williams has played an instrumental role in directing and coordinating all aspects of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Williams made vital decisions related to staffing, church organization structure, finances, and the modification of facilities. Pastor Williams was the driving force behind the construction of a seventy-nine square foot edifice, which includes an administration wing, sanctuary, fellowship hall and classroom wing. Pastor Williams spearheaded a 7-year effort that liquidated a \$4 million debt for the church so that it could cover the \$7.7 million that was required for the construction project. Pastor Williams is currently leading the church in the building of a multi million-dollar Family Life Center that will include a gymnasium, classrooms, computer lab, dance rooms, nursery, office space, library, weight room and conference room. Pastor Williams' commitment to improve the church is great proof of his willingness to work hard to improve the lives of other people.

Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams is a former business owner and she has brought her trademark grace and dignity to her role as the First Lady of St. Paul Baptist Church. As the First Lady, Mrs. Williams regularly visits the sick and the confined. She also counsels women and couples. Mrs. Williams helped to design

the St. Paul Children and Youth Reading Ministry, a program that is designed to motivate and reward children for their reading efforts.

Pastor Williams is undoubtedly one of the strongest civic leaders in the Capital Region. Pastor Williams' leadership capacities have included: President of United Pastors of Sacramento, Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc, President of the California State Baptist Convention and President of the Northern District Baptist Association. Pastor Williams is the current President of the Oak Park and St. Paul Community Outreach Program.

Pastor and First Lady Williams are the proud parents of Gwen and Ephraim Jr., although he has since passed on. They also enjoy the love and companionship of their four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams on their 50th wedding anniversary. As the family and friends of the Williams family gather to celebrate this terrific milestone, I would like to especially thank Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams for all their great service to their community. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Pastor Ephraim Williams and First Lady Carrie Sue Williams continued success in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 620, 621, 622, and 623. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 620 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 22, Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service; rollcall vote 621 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspectors General; roll call vote 622 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 299, Honoring Sargent Shriver; and rollcall vote 623, on the Hour of Meeting.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 620, 621, 622, and 623.

HONORING MR. DANIEL MILLER OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS, TO RECOGNIZE HIS DESIGN OF THE TEXAS STATE QUARTER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Miller of Arlington, Texas. Daniel is the artist who designed the Texas State quarter, which will debut in 2004 and will be the 28th in the series of state commemorative quarters from the U.S. Mint. His design was picked from over 3000 entries.

Daniel has gracefully and accurately captured the spirit of our great State. The Texas State quarter will feature a Lone Star springing from the outline of a map of Texas, with a lar-

iat featured prominently. When asked about what inspired him with the coin's design, Daniel simply said, "I toyed around with putting the Alamo in, but Texas is so much more than just the Alamo."

Indeed, Texas is much more than the Alamo. Its rich history and people can hardly be summed up in a coin, but Mr. Miller has gamely risen to the task. Although a native Minnesotan, having come to Texas only 15 years ago, Daniel's design tells me that the blood of a true Texan runs through his veins.

Daniel's inspired work will soon be familiar to millions of people across this great nation. Whether they collect or spend the Texas quarter, I believe that a little bit of the Texas spirit will rub off on everyone who encounters Daniel's work of art.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Daniel and his work to recognize Texas's great history. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Daniel Miller as we celebrate his design for the Texas State quarter. We salute him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act of 2003. My bill would expand Medicare eligibility for uninsured patients with advanced chronic kidney disease before their condition progresses to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) status. The bill would provide access to healthcare and most importantly disease management and pre-ESRD educational and counseling services. It would improve the health and quality of life for those suffering from kidney disease and could provide real savings for the Medicare program by helping chronic kidney disease patients delay costly dialysis treatments and kidney transplants associated with the end stage status of the disease.

ESRD patients are the only group of patients eligible for Medicare enrollment solely due to their medical diagnosis. ESRD is characterized by a permanent loss of kidney function, which results in the need for dialysis treatments or kidney transplantation in order to sustain life. Under current law, a physician must certify that an individual's kidney functions have deteriorated to end-stage status for a patient to be eligible for the Medicare ESRD program. Subsequently, there may be an additional waiting period of up to 3 months depending on the type of dialysis procedure chosen by the patient before the individual becomes eligible for benefits. Thus, benefits are only received after the cessation of adequate kidney functioning.

The cost to the Federal Government for providing care to an ESRD patient is very high. The average per capita expense for all ESRD patients was \$33,282 in 2000, approximately 8 times the annual cost of care for the average Medicare beneficiary. The annual cost for in-center hemodialysis, the most frequent form of dialysis used, approaches \$55,000.

There has been a substantial amount of research within the past several years indicating

that the provision of improved medical care and disease-related pre-ESRD educational and counseling services to advanced chronic kidney disease patients prior to their progressing to end-stage renal status has multiple positive effects. The provision of these pre-ESRD services slows down the progression toward ESRD status, decreases the occurrence and intensity of related diseases and decreases overall mortality rates. By allowing uninsured patients with advanced kidney disease to access care prior to qualifying for Medicare due to an End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis, this bill wisely and appropriately addresses a critical unmet health need.

Under the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act, uninsured, pre-ESRD chronic kidney disease patients would be eligible for full Medicare coverage and pre-ESRD counseling and educational services. To be eligible, a physician would need to certify that a chronic kidney disease patient has reached a level of kidney functioning deterioration predictive of a need for dialysis or a transplant in the next 1½ years under a widely accepted clinical standard. Individuals eligible under the bill would pay Medicare Part B premiums. Pre-ESRD educational and counseling services provided by this legislation address treatment options, disease management, and nutrition. These new services would also be available to current Medicare enrollees who become diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

This bill also requests that the Secretary of Health and Human Services establish at least 2 demonstration projects in cooperation with recognized kidney patient organizations, to devise ways, or demonstrate means through which peer education procedures can slow progress to ESRD and improve outcomes for patients with this disease.

Today, more than 300,000 individuals are covered under the Medicare ESRD program. By 2010, it is expected that this number will more than double. This bill, which is supported by the National Kidney Association and the American Association of Kidney Patients, will help minimize the damaging impact of this chronic illness and slow the growth of individuals suffering from ESRD. By delaying the need for either dialysis or transplantation, one can also anticipate substantial cost savings to the government. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act so we can make these vital improvements to the Medicare program for those who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER DOWNEY OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with genuine pleasure that I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Jennifer Downey of Clinton Township, Michigan, for her recent promotion to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 to develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions, and its significant role in national