

She remains beloved in the hearts of so many, and it is our great honor to remember her today, especially in this special place that meant so very much to her.

ADDITIONS TO NOVEMBER 5, 2003
FLOOR SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF
H. RES. 425

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 425, a Resolution to recognize and honor the brave men and women who responded to the horrendous wildfires that plagued Southern California last month.

While we all recognize that hundreds of first responders from the State of California bravely risked their lives to fight these wildfires, many Americans are less aware that hundreds of Nevada's first responders were also enlisted in this fight.

In fact, during the course of this deadly natural disaster, the State of Nevada deployed over 450 brave Americans to Southern California to join their neighbors in the effort to quell this deadly natural disaster.

These Nevadans included dozens of firefighters, paramedics, and highly-skilled mechanics.

Northern Nevada-based crews from the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management along with engine crews from the Nevada Division of Forestry, Reno, Sparks, Storey County, Elko County and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District were dispatched on October 27 to fight the Southern California fires.

Additionally, four Ely firefighters, a member of Lovelock, Nevada's private fire department and a rescue truck formed a strike team with Walker Lake Paiute Tribe firefighters and firemen to join the united efforts across Nevada's Western border.

Finally, two strike teams composed of firefighters from Las Vegas, Clark County, Henderson, Pahrump, the Nevada Test Site and the Naval Air Station at Fallon drove in to offer support to a base camp in Santee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution. The brave first responders from all over the Western States, and Nevada, have earned this honor and I am pleased to recognize their selfless efforts today.

CONTROLLING THE ASSAULT OF
NON-SOLICITED PORNOGRAPHY
AND MARKET ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. There is no denying the fact that the rise in unsolicited commercial e-mail, or spam, has become an intrusive aspect of the Internet, negatively impacting consumers and Internet service providers. Sur-

veys have noted that the volume of spam rose from 8 percent of all e-mail in January 2001 to 45 percent of all e-mail in January 2003.

Increasingly, spam mail is designed to prey upon innocent consumers by enticing them with fraudulent or misleading offers. Even worse, many of these e-mails are created to trick Internet users of all ages into opening web pages that depict sexually-explicit materials. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission recently reported that, out of 1,000 pieces of spam it studied, 66 percent contained false or misleading information, and roughly 18 percent concerned adult offers.

At the same time, spam also is incredibly costly to our Nation's economy. The huge amount of spam that is transferred over the Internet has drastically altered the speed at which it takes to process e-mails and the amount of memory needed to maintain an e-mail account. These costs are often transferred to businesses and customers who are forced to pay for time spent reading and deleting junk mail. Indeed, the Ferris Research Group estimates that spam will cost the United States over \$10 billion in 2003. It is clear that something must be done about this problem.

To this end, I am gratified that many of my colleagues are unified in their resolve to pass a law to prevent spam and have reached this compromise. In order to stop the harmful practices of spammers, we have before us Federal legislation that gives consumers the ability to opt-out of receiving any commercial e-mail they do not want to receive and makes it illegal to falsify the identity of the sender.

With respect to enforcement, we have before us legislation that would allow for effective prosecution of those who violate Federal spam legislation. On the Federal level, by giving the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission the tools to fine and place in jail the most egregious spammers, we can begin to give consumers control over their in-boxes. It is important to note that these protections are not limited to commercial e-mails; consumers will have enhanced protections against pornographic e-mails as well.

Also, knowing that effective law enforcement requires multiple fronts, this legislation does not rely on Federal enforcers alone, though. It empowers State attorneys general to bring civil actions against spammers for injunctions and damages. Moreover, it gives Internet service providers, whose systems suffer from spam traffic every day, the ability to bring lawsuits against violators.

The bottom line is that Congress must pass tough laws in order to deal effectively with spammers who can now hide behind the anonymity of the Internet. Only through legislation such as this that establishes civil and criminal penalties for sending unsolicited and fraudulent e-mails can we protect our Nation's consumers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEANNA WALKER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of my constituent, Deanna Carol

Beadman Walker. Mrs. Walker retires from the Southeast Texas credit industry this month after 18 years at the Beaumont office of Computer Science Corporation with the gratitude and admiration of the Ninth District. Thousands of Southeast Texans have been able to start their lives as homeowners, maintain their credit, and enrich the lives of their families because of Mrs. Walker's work.

Mrs. Walker's efforts have contributed to a highly respected, well-run credit organization that is central to the economic vitality of a community, gives peace of mind to financial institutions and provides the tools consumers need to obtain creditworthiness.

She earned the respect of her colleagues, serving on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Area Consumer Credit Counseling Service and the Beaumont Housing Authority. She served as President of Credit Women International—Orange Chapter and the Credit Management Association—Beaumont Chapter. She earned a place in the International Credit Association of Texas's Hall of Fame in 1996 and the distinction Credit Executive of the Year in 1998.

Mrs. Walker's professional success as a career woman complements her life success as wife to Weldon Walker and devoted mother to Becky, Ben, Tom, and Lisa. She is an asset to our community who has set a high standard of service and dedication to the people of the Ninth District. I commend Mrs. Walker for her efforts and congratulate her on this achievement.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 811, which will authorize funding for grants to low-income first-time homebuyers and certain uniform servicemen and women in order that they may enjoy the American dream of homeownership.

I recall purchasing my first home and the tremendous satisfaction and pride that it afforded me. I believe that every American that works hard and saves for the purpose of raising his or her children in their own home deserves the opportunity to reap the fruits of their labor. I am proud that this Congress is prepared to encourage and support American homeownership.

I want to thank Financial Services Committee Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY and Ranking Democratic Member BARNEY FRANK, as well as Housing and Community Opportunities Subcommittee Chairman BOB NEY and Ranking Democratic Member MAXINE WATERS for their leadership in including a proposal that is very important to Guam and the insular areas in S. 811. I would especially like to thank Congressman FRANK and his staff for their guidance and leadership throughout this process. This provision would move the annual Community Development Block Grant funding provided to Guam and the insular areas from a strictly discretionary financing stream into the section 106 grant formula under which cities and communities in the States receive their

funding. This is where it belongs, as Guam and the insular areas should have parity with the States.

Passage of S. 811 will also eliminate a regulatory hurdle that prevents Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas from participating in the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. Inclusion in the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program will allow the insular areas to apply for low-interest government-backed loans to build large projects such as bridges, schools and other projects designed to develop human, natural and capital resources to stimulate economic development.

Section 108 was a legislative priority of mine, prompting me to introduce H.R. 2422, the Insular Areas Community Development Act. Thanks to the kind support of Congresswoman HARRIS, as well as the helpful assistance of the Financial Services Committee leadership and staff, this longstanding issue for Guam and the insular areas will finally be resolved with the passage of S. 811.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 811.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment that the omnibus appropriations package before us, H.R. 2673, does not include provisions passed by both houses of Congress to protect workers' overtime pay, nor does it extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program.

Mr. Speaker, here we are again, the holiday season is upon us and once more, it is time to buy presents for our loved ones. Whether we are celebrating Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or simply the holiday season, it is a time for sharing gifts, festive meals and caring for others. Unfortunately, the appropriations package before us will strip workers of their overtime rights and does not extend TEUC benefits, possibly resulting in Santa Claus not making stops at everyone's house next year.

Millions of families continue to struggle through the rough fringes of our economy. Currently the official U.S. unemployment rate is at 5.9 percent, representing more than 8.5 million unemployed workers, and the rate for Hispanics has moved up to 7.4 percent. As much as these can be seen as mere figures, we must realize that they are more than just numbers. They represent human beings: someone who needs work and whose family may need food and clothing. These are not luxuries; they are the essentials.

Too many Americans are going to wake up New Year's morning to find out that their unemployment insurance has run dry. In the past 2 years, we've seen some 3 million jobs disappear.

Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to extend the reauthorization of the TEUC program and we failed to do it.

I joined the efforts to extend those benefits so that working families still looking for jobs

can enter the New Year with some peace of mind. The leadership in this House, however, saw it differently and blocked our efforts to extend help to out-of-work Americans. They reportedly said the economy's doing so much better that unemployed workers don't need any extra help. Sadly, this failure not only hurts families but also the economy. Worse yet, it comes just a few weeks after these same leaders approved a \$12 billion handout to insurance companies.

That's not all. Even those who are fortunate to have jobs have come under attack by the leadership of this House. On March 31, 2003, the Bush administration proposed changes to the overtime pay rules that require additional pay for workers who put in more than 40 hours per week. These changes will impact up to 8 million employees who could find themselves working longer without any additional pay.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to include provisions in this massive appropriations package to ensure that the rights of over 8 million workers to receive overtime for their hard work were protected, and we failed.

The new rules will impact workers who make between \$22,101 and \$65,000 per year. These middle class workers, from journalists to medical technicians, often rely on the extra money they get from overtime and appreciate there being some limit on the time they are expected to work.

Congress voted to stop this change in labor policy, though the vote was particularly close. Despite this action from Congress, the Bush administration has continued to push for the changes. The President even issued a veto threat against this massive appropriations bill if it included any attempt to maintain the overtime protections for these workers and their families.

As we enter the holiday season, it's sad that there's so little compassion for Americans struggling to find jobs and make ends meet. Clearly, the battle for America's working families is not over.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE
ENTITLED "PARTNERSHIP FOR
PROSPERITY AND SECURITY"

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, converting Cold War military technology to serve peaceful purposes was the subject of a conference which took place last month in my State of Pennsylvania. Taking place in Philadelphia, the conference was entitled "Partnership for Prosperity & Security" and was hosted by U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and his Russian counterpart, Minister Alexander Rumyantsev. As the op-ed below by Kempton Jenkins describes, it was a showcase of new technology products in fields ranging from energy, nanotechnology and healthcare to detection technologies for counter-terrorism. It was an important demonstration of the power of cooperation between our two countries and I recommend the article to my colleagues.

[From American/Russian Business Today,
Dec. 2003]

"GUNS TO PLOWSHARES" AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION: THE U.S.-RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP

(By Kempton Jenkins)

While developments in Iraq dominate headlines and newscasts, the threat to civilization itself of nuclear proliferation is both real and urgent. Diplomatic collaboration between Moscow and Washington in dealing with North Korea and Iran is central to containing this threat. In the long-run, cooperation between the United States and Russia in harnessing our huge Cold War stockpiles (and the brain power which produced them) is the only way to remove this threat to both of us and the rest of the world.

Last month in Philadelphia U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and his Russian counterpart, Minister Alexander Rumyantsev, chaired a conference entitled "Partnership for Prosperity & Security." It was dedicated to accelerating cooperation between Russia and the U.S. on proliferation policy and promoting the continued conversion of military-industrial capacity to serve peaceful purposes. Dramatic progress, largely unnoticed publicly, has already been accomplished. At the conference, Secretary Abraham and Minister Rumyantsev announced important new initiatives.

The Philadelphia conference drew attention to a number of health-related products that are byproducts of the bilateral effort to convert military technologies to civilian uses. The event was a showcase of new technologies from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan to potential U.S. industry partners and financiers. The conference's exhibition hall displayed 100 high-technology products ready for commercialization in fields ranging from energy (coal, oil, gas, nuclear and fuel cell) and radio pharmaceuticals to aerospace, nanotechnology and detection technologies for counter-terrorism.

The U.S. Department of Energy, in collaboration with U.S. Industry Coalition, has already helped form more than 100 commercial partnerships between U.S. companies and Russian, Ukrainian, and Kazakhstan institutes and private companies to bring new (and heretofore inaccessible technologies) to the global market. In 1991, a small New Mexico engineering company recognized the commercial potential in a Russian radar technology and embarked on a successful partnership to develop applications in energy and land mine detection. With a team of more than 100 weapons scientists and engineers in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod, Stolar Horizon has developed "Horizon Sensor" radar mapping, a technique allowing cleaner, more efficient access to coal, methane gas and oil. The same technology is being developed for humanitarian purposes by Stolar Horizon and SPEKTR Conversia in the closed nuclear city of Snezhinsk. The "EDIT" detector is able to locate both metal and plastic land mines—an urgently needed tool in the global effort to find and disable tens of thousands of land mines.

Persons confined to wheelchairs due to disease or accidents are susceptible to pressure ulcers—painful, sometimes-deadly infections caused by lack of circulation and motion. Health care costs associated with treatment are estimated at \$8 billion in the U.S. alone. Numotech, a small California medical devices firm with an FDA-approved automated wheelchair seat cushion proven to prevent these sores, was facing significant engineering production problems when the company was introduced to the Russian SPEKTR Conversia in 1999. Today the resulting U.S.-Russian partnership is planning the launch