

drivers' licenses, this bill would unnecessarily take away the power of States to set eligibility and documentation criteria for drivers' licenses.

My colleagues, the focus on immigrants and the expansion of federal powers of surveillance since September 11 has diverted attention from other critical security lapses that should be addressed in this bill, such as unfunded State and local homeland security needs, lack of adequate security at our nation's airport, intelligence gathering failures, and the substantial evidence of incompetence and lack of coordination at the Department of Homeland Security.

However, at the end of the day, I believe that Congress has an obligation to act as expeditiously as possible to make this country, and indeed the world, a safer place. I don't believe that this should be done on the backs of immigrants and law-abiding American citizens, and I'm going to work to make sure that doesn't happen.

But I don't want a single New Yorker, or American, to lose sleep at night because Congress failed to accomplish what we all agree is our highest priority—protecting America. We are 3 years after the attacks of September 11 and 3 months after the Commission issued its recommendations. We simply cannot wait any longer to move forward on these critical reforms.

So, my vote today is only a vote to protect the changed funding formula that prioritizes high-risk areas like New York, my home state, and to move this measure to conference with the Senate, which has passed a bill that more closely embodies the 9/11 Commission recommendations. And I can assure you that if the conference report that comes before our House is not significantly improved from what we have today, I will vote against it.

But for today, we must move this process forward to ultimately try to enact legislation that will truly and comprehensively improve our national intelligence structure.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON DREYER,
RECIPIENT OF SECRETARY OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT AWARD

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District to recognize Don Dreyer of Rockville Centre, NY.

I am extremely honored to congratulate Mr. Dreyer upon being named by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson as one of the eight people nationwide to receive the prestigious Secretary Recognition Award. Receipt of such an honor is testament to Don's impressive record of over thirty years of work on behalf of disabled persons.

Born with brittle bone disease, Don Dreyer was homebound until the age of 15. He has never let the fact that he is in a wheelchair be a handicap. Instead, he has spent much of his life seeing to it that the twenty percent of our nation's population who are disabled do not see themselves as handicapped either.

Don began his crusade for the disabled in 1971 when he served as Director of Media

and Public Relations at the National Center for Disability Services. Among his duties was the planning of foundation fund-raisers, including the Center's Annual Celebrity Sports Night Dinner. Don was also responsible for securing corporate and foundation grants for the education of young children with severe disabilities.

For over 25 years, Don has served as Director of the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged where he has always exhibited consummate diligence and tireless effort. In this capacity, he has worked to enact State and Federal legislation to enhance the lives of both disabled children and adults. The pinnacle of Don's career was in 1990 when his efforts led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Today, he continues to support civil rights policies for the inclusion of disabled persons in the workplace, commerce, transportation, education, and health care.

During October, which is Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Department of Health and Human Services seeks to recognize the efforts of those who have made a contribution to the disabled in both the public and private sectors. Although Don has received numerous distinctions in the past, this award distinguishes the national impact that he has had over the past three decades.

Mr. Dreyer's tireless commitment to his job has made a difference in the lives of many. Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations to him on this well-deserved national recognition and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

DISASTER AREA HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act with my colleagues Representatives TIM BISHOP, SHAYS, SERRANO, MCINTYRE, McDERMOTT, and SCHAKOWSKY.

During a disaster our first responders heroically rush to the disaster area with little regard for their personal safety in hopes of saving others. We owe it to them to at least monitor their health when it has been put at risk. Unfortunately, no such program exists. There is no better example of this than what has happened in the aftermath of 9/11.

Today, more than 3 years after 9/11, there are literally thousands of individuals who are still sick as a direct result of their work in and around Ground Zero. Included in the sick are police officers, firefighters, volunteers, residents, and area workers. Despite a clear need, there is still no one in the Federal Government in charge of caring for these individuals, there are no coordination among programs established to screen these illnesses and there is no Federal program that provides anyone with any treatment. This is why we are introducing the Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act. This is the companion to S. 1279, which was introduced by Senators VOINOVICH and CLINTON in the Senate and passed by unanimous consent.

The Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act would create a standard

for a monitoring program following a disaster when the President determines a monitoring program is needed. This monitoring program would be set up to screen the health of affected individuals. By creating a coordinated monitoring program we can provide valuable information to affected individuals and we can assure our first responders that we will continue to care about the health affects after the disaster. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF 2ND
BATTALION 7TH MARINES

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to men of the 2nd Battalion 7th Marines (2/7) that have recently returned from their tour of duty in Iraq. Specifically, I would like to honor Corporal Justin Perez, Lance Corporal Andrew Kingscott, Lance Corporal Justin Sebring, and Lance Corporal Ben Gunderson, of my district, for their outstanding service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These proud Marines exemplify the honor and tradition that the Marine Corps stands for. These men have offered their lives for an idea greater than any one of us as individuals—the right of all God's children to live in freedom. Through their courage, the flame of freedom has been lit; through their bravery its warmth and light continue to shine on America; and through their courage its rays of hope and opportunity now reach a nation of people. Their actions laid the groundwork for a safe and democratic Iraq, which will ultimately make the United States and the world a safer place.

Their character is measured not only by their efforts in the field; it is measured by the hope they brought to the oppressed, the freedom they brought to the terrorized, and the bravery and fortitude with which they completed their mission. I am honored today to recognize Corporal Justin Perez, Lance Corporal Andrew Kingscott, Lance Corporal Justin Sebring, and Lance Corporal Ben Gunderson for their exemplary service on behalf of their country, and thank them for their work.

COMMENDING DR. ROBERT
STUART

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity to talk about a positive, life-affirming journey which represents the best and the brightest of my district. It is with tremendous pride that I rise today to commend Dr. Robert Stuart from Charleston, SC, for being one of the 20 cyclists to participate in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Tour of Hope™.

The Tour of Hope is a grueling eight-day bike journey across America that is designed to help raise awareness about the need for increased participation in cancer clinical trials. The cross-country tour is the brainchild of

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Lance Armstrong, six-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, who credits his survival to the many people before him who participated in the clinical trials that ultimately led to the development of the treatment that saved his life.

As Robert begins the Tour of Hope on October 1 in Los Angeles, he will be one of 20 cyclists chosen from nearly 1,200 riders who were eager to dedicate themselves to being a part of the effort to cure cancer. The Tour of Hope Team members are cancer survivors, caregivers, physicians, nurses, and researchers. Each of them has a very personal experience with cancer that makes their efforts all the more poignant. Supporting and awaiting Robert and the rest of the riders at stops across America's great landscape will be cancer survivors, family members, friends, medical practitioners, researchers, and government officials, all of whom share the riders' passion and commitment to finding a cure for cancer.

To achieve his goal of riding across America Robert will have to undertake a rigorous training schedule, battle inclement weather, and endure physical and mental fatigue, so that the tour's message—the need to support cancer research—can be delivered to communities across our great country.

A selfless act, such as this, truly deserves to be publicly acknowledged, and I look forward to tracking Robert's progress. It is my hope that in these fiscally challenging times my colleagues and I will continue to make funding for cancer research a priority for the nation.

I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Robert for his generosity of spirit, time, and fortitude. It is precisely this type of commitment that will allow us to conquer cancer once and for all.

NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following two letters for the RECORD.

The Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing with regard to H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 29, 2004. As you know, the Energy and Commerce Committee received a named additional referral upon introduction.

I understand that you will include an amendment when the bill goes to the floor. The intent of new section 4(b) is to clarify that nothing in H.R. 5163 alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce over the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Specifically, section (b)(1) and (2) states that nothing in this Act shall grant any authority to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration over research and other pro-

grams, activities, standards, or regulations administered by the Secretary through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but does not include those provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Accordingly I will waive the Committee's consideration of this legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Energy and Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 5163. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Energy and Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004 regarding H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, and for your willingness to waive consideration of provisions in the bill that fall within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of these provisions of H.R. 5163 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be included in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this legislation to the House floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2004, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, the Assembly Majority Floor Leader for the State of California, will term-out of the Assembly after six distinguished years of public service.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was born on October 13, 1966, in Baja California, Mexico. He made California his permanent residence in 1970.

In 1990, Assembly Member Firebaugh earned his Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He subsequently earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 1997.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was first elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 50th Assembly District in November 1998. He easily won re-election and was sworn into office on December 2, 2002, to serve his third term.

As Assembly Majority Floor Leader, Firebaugh has been responsible for all matters that are relevant to the order of business on the Assembly floor. Furthermore, he has served as one of the chief negotiators for Assembly Democrats.

In 2002, Assembly Member Firebaugh was elected Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus and thus was responsible for developing the annual Caucus' Agenda for California's Working Families. He has focused on providing resources to schools, increasing access to health care and affordable housing, and championing immigrant rights.

His legislative tenure has been highlighted with far-reaching accomplishments in numerous policy areas. Assembly Member Firebaugh's effort to ensure that California high school students have the opportunity to pursue a college education, regardless of their immigration status, illustrates his strong commitment to the people he represents.

As Chairman of the Select Committee on California-Mexico Affairs, Assembly Member Firebaugh has done extensive work in establishing a strong working relationship between California and Mexico. Through his committee work, he has launched creative initiatives to establish a Sister-State partnership with Jalisco, a key state in Mexico. He has also led efforts to reform money transmission services and disclosures to protect consumers in California.

Throughout his career, Assembly Member Firebaugh has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his profession, community and family. An avid art enthusiast, Assembly Member Firebaugh continues to seek out resources and facilities to further enable the creativity of the community to flourish. As a family man, he enjoys spending quality time with his son Nicolas and attending his daughter Ariana's soccer games.

From one public servant to another, I praise Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh for his service and dedication to the community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 306, of which I am a cosponsor, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on October 5, 2004. This important legislation honors the service of Native American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces.

I have the privilege of representing the largest tribe of Native Americans east of the Mississippi River—the Lumbee Tribe. Approximately 52,000 strong, about 40,000 members of this tribe live in my home county—Robeson County, North Carolina.