

my congressional district, NIOSH found that five of the sites had potential for significant contamination well into the 1990s and beyond. At the same time, NIOSH reported that it could not make a determination at three of the sites without additional information. For this reason, the bill I am introducing would require NIOSH to update its report on an annual basis to include new information when it becomes available.

Mr. Speaker, the RRCCA seeks to open the door of eligibility for valid claims. At the same time, passage of this bill will mean very little if the chronic problems that have plagued this program are not addressed. As you may know, the implementation of this important program has been plagued by bureaucratic red tape. For far too many claimants, it's a waiting game. I know of dozens of constituents whose work and health history leave no doubt about eligibility but are still waiting to have their records reviewed. In those rare instances where the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has managed to evaluate claims, the approval rate has been abysmal.

Moreover, the Department of Health and Human Services has failed to issue one of the key regulations required by the law nearly 3½ years since the law was signed. The "Special Exposure Cohort" regulation is needed to address situations where the records needed to estimate radiation dose are not available, where the workers were not monitored, or the monitoring data is unreliable or altered. We note, for example, that NIOSH was unable to produce individual monitoring records for workers at Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna, New York, where uranium billets were rolled into rods used as fuel in the government's plutonium reactors during the years 1949–1952. Just this week, a group of 25 Bethlehem Steel workers boarded a bus for Cleveland, to stage a protest outside of the Northeast Regional Headquarters of the program. These workers and others have been denied the right to petition for eligibility in the Special Exposure Cohort because the Department of Health and Human Services has failed to issue its regulations in a timely manner. Further delay is simply inexcusable.

As I have said, over and over again, this is an aging and ill population. Time is of the essence. Congress must act to ensure that the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program is properly administered.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Residual Radioactive Contamination Compensation Act to help our constituents.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2004, I supported H.R. 3783, legislation to provide an extension of the transportation programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The fact that Congress had to approve yet another temporary extension of the Highway Trust Fund programs clearly shows the leadership of this Congress has misplaced priorities.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), legislation which is the product of the hard and tireless work of two well respected members of the House, Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR. I call on my colleagues to enact this legislation at the full authorized level of \$375 billion through 2009.

Their legislation is being held hostage by ideological interests in the White House and House leadership who are apparently blind to the number one issue in my community of Houston, Texas: mobility.

While transportation reauthorization is stalled in Congress, residents in my community are idling away an average of 37 hours and 60 gallons of gas this year in congested traffic. We lose \$2.1 billion, every year, in productivity and fuel, and congestion has been getting worse. These figures are according to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2003 Urban Mobility Report.

Texas mobility is also impacted severely by the fact that 10 cents of every dollar we pay in gasoline taxes goes to other states. I strongly believe that Texas deserves at least 95 percent of Texas gas tax revenue for Texas transportation projects and have co-sponsored legislation, H.R. 2208, to that effect. But it will be much, much easier to increase our slice of the pie and get to that 95 percent level, if we fully fund H.R. 3550 and have a larger, total pie.

The gasoline tax funds our public highways by tapping revenue from those who benefit from them—motorists and truckers. Every cent we pay at the pump to the federal government goes to transportation. How else should we pay for our unavoidable road, bridge, and transit construction? The current gasoline user fee method is simpler than having to stop every 5 miles or so and dig around for change in our car seats to pay a highway toll.

Unless we can fully fund H.R. 3550, our constituents will be stopping to pay a lot more tolls in the future. The amount of funding generated by the static \$0.18 per gallon federal gasoline tax has significantly eroded over the last several years due to inflation. To allow for necessary highway construction the federal gas tax should be indexed to inflation, as proposed by my respected colleagues Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR.

It is frustrating to be confined by inadequate transportation funding during tough economic times because infrastructure investment brings major employment and development benefits. Each billion spent on infrastructure creates 47,500 American jobs, with 3.5 million jobs to be generated and sustained through 2009 under H.R. 3550, including over 200,000 jobs in Texas.

Inadequate transportation investment leads to lost hours spent in traffic, lost job opportunities, and lost lives from unsafe road conditions. I call on my colleagues to fully fund H.R. 3550 at the bipartisan level of \$375 billion.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. GINA CAYNE IN APPRECIATION FOR HER EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I have the opportunity to recognize an outstanding woman, Mrs. Gina Cayne, for her distinguished efforts creating the Jason David Cayne Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the families of deceased spouses.

Mrs. Cayne spent her youth in Marlboro, New Jersey where she met her childhood sweetheart and future husband, Mr. Jason David Cayne. In 1992, Jason and Gina wed, and Jason began his career trading Municipal Bonds. His success led him to a partnership with the firm of Cantor Fitzgerald in 1995. Six years later, during the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, Jason's life came to a tragic end. He was survived by his wife and three children.

However, in the wake of tragedy, the community reached out to Gina, and provided for her every need while she grieved for her beloved husband. After this difficult period ended, Gina was so thankful of the help of the community that she decided to return the favor, and try to bestow the same generosity to other victims of tragedy that results in the loss of a spouse.

Gina created the Jason David Cayne foundation in October of 2003 to assist with the immediate burden that families face when losing a spouse. In addition to financial assistance, the foundation provides help with organizing finances, and finding counseling that is required from the loss of a husband or wife.

Mr. Speaker, for overcoming the overwhelming loss of her husband, and in the wake of such tragedy, creating a foundation to help others like herself, Mrs. Gina Cayne deserves praise. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mrs. Cayne for her service to the grieving families of Monmouth County. In addition, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a remarkable woman whose career in non-profit work has positively shaped the lives of all her foundation touches.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUVENILE COURTS IN CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 101st anniversary of the Juvenile Courts in California. As a result of the tireless efforts of the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC), a bill was passed and signed into law by Governor George C. Pardee establishing the California juvenile court system on February 26, 1903. California became the seventh state to establish a juvenile court system with the first courts in San Francisco and Los Angeles—only 4 years after the nation's first juvenile court began in Chicago, Illinois.

Until the 19th century, children were confined and punished according to the standards established by criminal courts—adults and juveniles, men and women, sane and insane criminals were treated the same. CFWC fought to establish a system that would consider that children may have less than fully developed moral and cognitive capacities. The CFWC's umbrella organization, the General Foundation for Women's Clubs established 75 percent of the nation's libraries and was the national model for juvenile courts upon which California's system is based.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs, chartered in 1900, sought legislation to create a separate court system for juveniles based on the understanding that children are inherently different from adults and that the state has a certain responsibility to protect and rehabilitate young offenders. Juvenile courts provide rehabilitation and benevolent supervision based on the concept of *parens patriae* (the State as Parent), allowing the state to intervene in the interest of protecting the child. The focus of the juvenile court was on the offender, not on the offense, on rehabilitation, not punishment.

Because of the actions of the CFWC, criminal cases involving individuals under the age of eighteen began to be adjudicated in a juvenile court. The CFWC also funded the courts until the courts were included in the State budget. This system allowed courts to provide a standard procedure for processing the crimes committed by juvenile offenders while paying additional attention to the special needs and circumstances of children. Over the years juvenile courts have evolved to more closely resemble the criminal justice system.

Today the CFWC continues to work for adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane facilities for children. In addition to creating the Juvenile Courts of California, CFWC members strive to promote education, literacy, healthy lifestyles, preservation of natural resources, crime prevention, art appreciation and increased international understanding. The organization contributes an average of 4 million volunteer hours and \$3 million on 25,000 projects annually.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs is a non-profit, charitable organization that was organized in January 1900, becoming the thirty-seventh state to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs—which is one of the largest and oldest volunteer organizations in the world. "Strength United is Stronger" was chosen as the motto and still holds true today as the Clubs working together make a difference throughout the world.

HONORING REV. DR. ISAIAH
SCIPIO, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the membership and friends of the Itinerant Ministry of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to honor my friend Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio, Jr., for fifty five years of spiritual leadership within the Christian Methodist community. On Saturday, February 28, 2004 the friends of Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio,

Jr., will honor him during a retirement luncheon celebration to be held at the Sarvis Conference Center in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Rev. Isaiah Scipio, Jr. was born in Darlington, South Carolina on July 11, 1923 to Isaiah Sr. and Margaret Scipio. He graduated from Mayo High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Air Corps December of 1942, where he served honorably as a Technical Sergeant until August of 1946. After his tour of duty he enrolled at the University of Southern California where he received a Bachelor of Business Arts degree in 1959. In 1947 Rev. Scipio received his license to preach, and two years later in 1949 he was ordained Deacon and Elder. He earned his Master of Theology from the University of Southern California School of Religion. In 1947 a year after receiving his receiving his Theology Doctorate, he was assigned interim pastor of the New Era C.M.E. Church of South Los Angeles, California. Rev. Scipio from this point forward would be known as the traveling preacher. He has had the honor of spreading the word to congregations in California, Michigan, New York, Richmond, Virginia, Indiana and Ohio. From 1959–1962 Rev. Scipio served under Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. as President of the Western Christian Leadership Conference. He served two years as the President of the Greater Flint Council of Church. In 1970 he was elected General Secretary of the board of Missions, supervising work in Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, West Africa, Haiti and Jamaica. In 1993 he transferred to Flint, Michigan and was assigned to his current position as pastor of Dozier Memorial C.M.E. Church. As the passage of 2 Cor 9:13–14 reads "While, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men. And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you." Rev. Scipio, you have championed for Christ for fifty-five years and the community thanks you.

Rev. Scipio is also an outstanding father, grandfather and husband. He is married to Marion and they have two lovely daughters, Brenda and Deborah and three lovely granddaughters: Stephanie, Donya and Shonna.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and friend Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio for his outstanding service to the Christian community.

COMMEMORATING THE PRESIDENT
OF TUNISIA'S RECENT VISIT TO
WASHINGTON, DC

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the recent visit to Washington, DC by the President of the Republic of Tunisia, His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. President Ben Ali met with President Bush on Wednesday, February 18, 2004. During the meeting President Bush praised the social progress in Tunisia and welcomed its leader as a partner in the fight against terrorism.

The United States and Tunisia have maintained a strong relationship throughout both

our histories. Tunisia has been a crucial partner in the Mediterranean region through first the Cold War and, more recently, in our current efforts to fight terrorism. Our relationship has grown even stronger in the last few years. In December 2003, Tunis was chosen as the regional center for the Middle East Partnership Initiative, a Near Eastern affairs program to promote democracy and political reform in the region. This is a welcome development because Tunisia plays a crucial role in stabilizing Middle East politics.

President Bush rightly praised the government in Tunisia for working with the United States in fighting terrorism, for a "modern and viable" education system and for giving equal rights to women. Tunisia can help the Middle East achieve greater reform and freedom, something that is necessary for peace for the long term.

As a friend of Tunisia, I again commemorate the recent visit by His Excellency President Ben Ali. This meeting was an opportunity to highlight the longstanding relations between our two countries and the friendship shared by our two peoples. It was also an occasion to strengthen our joint efforts on the international scene for the causes of peace, security, human dignity and development.

AMERICA AT RISK—ANNIVERSARY
REPORT ON THE STATE OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow Members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security from this side of the aisle to underscore the importance of a report issued by Ranking Member Turner entitled *America at Risk: Closing the Security Gap*. This report answers the question of whether we are as safe as we need to be one year after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the negative.

Despite the fact that for fiscal year 2005, DHS is slated to receive \$40.2 billion in total funding, representing a \$3.7 billion—or 10 percent increase relative to the fiscal year 2004 level of \$36.5 billion, there still exist major problems in the Department's overall function.

There is an emergency situation occurring in Haiti right now, such that political upheaval and the threat of murder is forcing people to flee the country for our borders. Over the past two days, at least two boats full of Haitians have arrived at our borders. Neither the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) nor our nation as a whole is prepared for the mass exodus that may arrive.

I will support a bill sponsored by our colleague Mr. MEEK of Florida to designate Haiti under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow Haitian refugees to obtain Temporary Protective Status (TPS). I have signed on to join my brother today in fact to take leadership in this crisis.

Furthermore, I will introduce a piece of legislation, the "Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2003." Section 502 of this bill responds to Attorney General Ashcroft's decision in *Matter of D-J-*, 23 I&N Dec. 572 (AG