

individuals make sacrifices daily to preserve our safety. Their countless acts of heroism merit our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding these outstanding individuals.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before the House of Representatives today that commends the members of the United States armed forces and coalition forces for liberating Iraq, and expresses the gratitude of the American people for their valiant service.

On a plane coming home to Kansas recently, I had a conversation about the situation in Iraq with a man who served our country in Vietnam. The veteran noted the contrast in the treatment of soldiers returning home today compared with what he had faced. He didn't provide details, but the memories of his own homecoming still brought tears decades later.

March 20th will mark the one-year anniversary of our intervention in Iraq. I'm thankful time has changed the way we treat veterans who have served our country. While I hear differing opinions from Kansans about this issue, we can all agree on the need to support the thousands of men and women in harm's way who protect our freedom and stand up for us in the war on terrorism.

Last September, I met with family members of the over 300 reservists and National Guard members from units based in my district deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many reservists and members of the National Guard left behind jobs and families with reduced income and limited support networks. Some have lost their homes and small businesses in order to do their duty. To show our gratitude for their sacrifices, I believe we must do everything we can to address the needs of our military. Troop strength, equipment, supplies, and care they need when they come home are an absolute.

Too often Congress pays lip service to our veterans and military personnel, yet fails to deliver on solid votes and programs that would demonstrate our recognition of their sacrifice. I listened to military personnel and their families, and I'm proud my legislative proposals are helping troops and veterans. In November 2003, my proposal to relieve the travel burden on troops coming home for Rest and Recuperation (R&R) was signed into law. The new law provides funding to cover all travel costs necessary to return service personnel home to their families. Another bill I introduced that will protect the growing health care needs of our veterans became law in December 2003.

In January, I was part of a small congressional delegation to Iraq. I heard firsthand from those serving on the front lines, including Kansas military personnel who are upbeat and proud of their efforts in Iraq. I was pleased to learn that many of the concerns about equipment and supplies have been corrected. I re-

turned from Iraq more confident about the condition of American troops and their morale.

In times of crisis like the past year, our nation looks to the men and women of the armed forces. America must honor their sacrifice and courage by living up to her promises to service personnel, whether active duty, reservists, members of the National Guard or veterans. This anniversary is a time for all of us to reflect, by remembering the sacrifices our veterans are making and working for a more peaceful future.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women's History Month as a time to honor, "American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways."

For 2004, the theme of Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." To celebrate this month, I would like to honor four of the numerous women from Wisconsin's history who inspired hope and possibility through their selfless efforts in gaining suffrage for women in America.

First, I would like to recognize Ada James, who served as president of the Political Equality League from 1911 to 1919. As a dedicated women's suffrage advocate, Ms. James spent these eight years preceding the ratification of the suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution on an automobile tour through Southern Wisconsin. She spoke at state and county fairs, and to farmers and workers in factories with her fellow suffragists. Ms. James was a native of Richland Center, a city in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, and I am honored to be able to share Ms. James' story here.

Reverend Olympia Brown resided in Racine, Wisconsin, where she was elected president of the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association, holding this post for 30 years. Reverend Brown lived a life of activism, and after being refused at Wisconsin polls, she took her case to the State Supreme Court. Despite a decision rendered in favor of the election inspectors, she never accepted defeat. She continued to fight for women's right to vote, and was one of the few suffrage leaders who lived to be able to cast a vote in the Presidential election of 1920—the first in which women could vote.

As the first Wisconsin-born leader of the state's suffrage movement, Theodora Winton Youmans was able to help the movement gain momentum by writing a regular column for the *Waukesha Freeman*. She used her column as a platform to educate the public about suffrage and women's rights. After leaving her post as assistant editor in the 1890s, Ms. Youmans worked to create the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, serving as its president in 1900. In 1924, she lost a bid to Congress, and it was not until nearly 75 years later that Wis-

consin would see its first Congresswoman with the election of TAMMY BALDWIN in 1999, who continues to represent Wisconsin women today.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to honor the achievements of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. As a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, she played the largest role in the final passage of the 19th Amendment. Her campaign was successful because she pushed for reform in the states, instead of focusing solely on a constitutional amendment. In 1900, she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Following ratification of the amendment, her leadership abilities were not forgotten as she helped establish the League of Women Voters, which is still active today. I think I speak for all people from Wisconsin when I say that we are fortunate to have had such a remarkable woman in our history.

These four women, along with so many others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. I have no doubt that their devotion to the cause was the sole reason why Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10th, 1919. I am honored to share these women's stories today, as their efforts made Wisconsin a leader in this landmark roll call of democracy. In many ways, their hopes are still with us today. As a reflection of this, I will end my statement with a quotation from Carrie Chapman Catt: "Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

IN HONOR OF MIGUEL RIVERA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Rivera for his years of outstanding work and service with Verizon Communications. Mr. Rivera will be honored by the Friends of Mike Rivera Committee for 35 years of dedicated service to Verizon Communications and the Hispanic Community at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mr. Rivera is retiring from Verizon Communications after 35 years of service. Mr. Rivera started his career with Verizon as Facilities Engineer from 1968 to 1972. He also held the position of Systems Equipment Engineer from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to his retirement, Mr. Rivera was Director of External Affairs, serving as the face of Verizon Communications to local government, consumer relations, and Hispanic relations in New Jersey.

As Director of External Affairs, Mr. Rivera was able to dedicate a great deal of time and resources to the enhancement of the Hispanic community in New Jersey. Serving as Corporate Representative of Verizon Communications with the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Rivera was able to bring increased prosperity to Hispanics throughout the state by forming new partnerships with Latin

America, bringing products and jobs back to New Jersey, and creating further economic development and business opportunities throughout our region.

Mr. Rivera currently is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Community United for the Rehabilitation of the Addict, Inc. (CURA), Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Puerto Rican Action Board, and Trustee for New Brunswick Tomorrow. Mr. Rivera's vast community activities are an example of his wide variety of concerns for his community, while showing his dedication and desire to improve his community through action.

Mr. Rivera received his bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Rivera is a loving husband to his wife, Nina Rivera.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Rivera for his 35 years of distinguished service, outstanding leadership, and devotion to Verizon Communications and the Hispanic community.

TERRORISM PROTECTION OF MASS TRANSPORTATION AND RAILROAD CARRIERS ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the recent horrific terrorist attacks on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain tragically underscored the vulnerability of railroad and mass transit systems to terrorist attacks. It is time we identify these vulnerabilities and make the necessary changes to improve our safety.

Congressman RUPPERSBERGER and I have introduced the Anti-Terrorism Mass Transportation and Railroad Carrier Act of 2004, which is the companion legislation to a bill introduced by Senator SESSIONS in the Senate. This bill takes tangible steps to protect the millions of Americans who use our transit systems and increase punishment if a terrorist is able to conduct an attack.

Under current law, an attack on a train is treated differently than an attack on any other mass transit system. We believe clear federal jurisdiction is needed to send the message to would-be terrorists: they will face the full force of law. Under our bill, perpetrators would face up to 20 years in prison if an attack causes material damage to a railroad or mass transit system, and the death penalty if the attack results in any deaths.

Our bill would also broaden the definition of "domestic and international terrorism" to provide law enforcement with tools to combat and prevent attacks on mass transportation and railroads. Specifically, our bill would make it easier for law enforcement officials to detect and disrupt terrorist plots against mass transit systems in the planning phases by allowing the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications if sufficient evidence existed.

Mr. Speaker, we need to deal with the terrorist threat in a forceful, decisive manner. While much remains to be done to improve railroad security in our country, this bill takes an important first step.

INTRODUCING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF CONGRESS ISSUE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer what I believe is a necessary solution to a problem not addressed in our Founding Fathers' plan for our country's government.

I recently introduced a Constitutional Amendment to address the issue of how Congress would continue should a catastrophic event occur. Under this proposal, if a majority of House members are killed or incapacitated as a result of such an event their seats could be immediately filled by temporary appointments made by state legislatures. We need look no further than the Continental Congresses and Constitutional Convention, to understand that such a temporary solution would be successful. I believe that a functional House, even in a temporarily modified form, is far better than no House at all.

The temporary appointments would be afforded full Member powers, until vacancies are filled by a special election. However, a temporary Member could not be a candidate in the election for the seat he or she holds, and the temporary Member must be of the same political party as the Member who previously held the seat.

There is no way the Founders could have foreseen the need to address such an issue. The terrorist acts that take place nearly every day across the globe were not a part of their world. That's why I believe a Constitutional Amendment is necessary to enable the House to reconstitute itself as quickly as possible.

We have amended the Constitution to address presidential succession and the appointment of Senators in the case of vacancies, but the House has no such constitutional safeguard in the event of a catastrophe. That doesn't make sense. If the Senate can accept an appointment to fill an entire term, then a temporary appointment should not be that offensive to the concept of democracy, and therefore, should be acceptable for the House.

I offered this Constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 89), because I believe that proposals to expedite special elections and make temporary appointments are not mutually exclusive. I support the idea of a new statute that seeks to expedite special elections and fill House seats quickly in the event of a catastrophe, but this needs to be done in concert with a Constitutional Amendment for temporary replacements and with respect for views of the states.

As for other proposals that address this issue only through expedited special elections, I am certainly willing to review any compromise opportunities. However, I do not believe, nor does the secretary of state from my home state of Connecticut believe, that it is reasonable to expect that we can hold special elections within 45 days after a disastrous event has wiped out hundreds of Members. Also, expedited special elections won't reconstitute the House fast enough to deal with pressing legislative matters.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 taught us that Congress needs to act quickly

on critical pieces of legislation to deal with the aftermath of a crisis. Should such an event occur again and many Members of Congress die, the country will not have the luxury of waiting for special elections to occur in order for the people's business to continue. To avoid taking action now to prevent this scenario would be a dereliction of our duty.

My proposed Constitutional Amendment also addresses vacancies created by the incapacity of a Member of the House, which cannot be addressed by a mere statute. The article would become part of the Constitution if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states within seven years of the date of its submission to them.

As a former history teacher and long-serving member of the Connecticut State Senate, I feel very strongly about the need to preserve the institution of Congress. In December, I held a Continuity of Congress Forum at the University of Connecticut School of Law in Hartford, Connecticut. I invited local academic leaders, who are experts in Congressional operations, to discuss current House proposals about how Congress would continue should a catastrophic event occur.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Constitutional Amendment. This is certainly an issue that is difficult for all of us to address—our untimely demise or incapacitation. Yet, given the level of terrorist activity in our world, it would behoove us to recognize that we need a mechanism for temporary appointments should a catastrophic event occur in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO PELKIE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND THE ORIGINAL SEVEN ONE-ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL HOUSES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR REUNION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call your attention and that of our House colleagues to a ceremony that will take place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on August 9, 2004. While the Baraga County Fair goes on, the Pelkie Agricultural School along with the original seven one-room country school houses of the Pelkie area, will be celebrating with all their alumni.

In the NW corner of the Upper Peninsula there is the small town of Pelkie where a hidden treasure lay. The treasure built in 1932 is known as Pelkie Agricultural School, and is perhaps one of the oldest schools of its kind in Michigan or even in the United States still operating as an educational institution. The community looks forward to hosting the event and reuniting with old friends, teachers and classmates.

The Pelkie area was originally settled by Finnish immigrants in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century. As late as the mid-1970's one could walk into the local Co-op Store and hear the Finnish language spoken, or attend an area church service on Sunday conducted in the Finnish language. In the early years, seven one-room country school houses served the educational needs of the Pelkie area children, and then in 1932 the Pelkie Agricultural