

technologies that the private sector is unwilling to develop because they are too risky or too expensive. In fact, government funding of basic science has historically been the major role of government-sponsored research in aeronautics as well as the pharmaceutical, defense, and energy industries. When that basic research yields information that could lead to a service or product with profit potential, the private sector transitions the technology from research to development in order to bring it to market.

It is clear that where there is no basic research, there can be no development. Where there is no research and development, there can be no competitive industry. Without a thriving competitive aeronautics industry, we undermine our economy, national security, and airline safety.

Any management decisions that significantly erode NASA's aeronautics programs will require decades and billions of dollars to replace. We urge you to take all possible steps to preserve a robust aeronautics program at NASA.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE EMMANUEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE DEDICATION OF THEIR NEW EDIFICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church as they dedicate their new edifice.

The Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church has served the San Antonio Community for more than 88 years. When first organized in 1917, the church was comprised of a small shed. As membership grew, the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church expanded, moving from building to building to accommodate their ever-expanding group of churchgoers.

By putting the principles of true stewardship to work, the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church has grown substantially from their humble beginnings. For Church members, the new edifice reflects God's goodness and grace, as well as their Church's dedication and appreciation for the Lord. The congregation now looks forward to worshipping in their new sanctuary.

I am honored to have had this opportunity to congratulate the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church on the dedication of their new edifice. The Emmanuel A.M.E. Church has provided the San Antonio area with guidance and stewardship, helping nurture and enrich faith in their community.

HARLEM RENAISSANCE DAY OF COMMITMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and achievements of the Abyssinian Development Corporation and its Harlem Renaissance Day of Commitment in

which I was pleased and honored to participate this morning. This organization has been a committed and active champion of the Harlem community, has worked diligently to promote the best of Harlem, and has created an environment that has facilitated the new Harlem Renaissance.

The Abyssinian Development Corporation is a major not-for-profit organization that works on housing development, family services, economic revitalization, educational development, and civil engagement in Harlem. Starting in the small basement office of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Abyssinian Development Corporation has grown in prominence and respect for its handling of complex issues of social, economic, and political challenges facing Harlem. Today, the organization boasts a dedicated staff of 95 employees and community investment projects of over \$300 million.

Under the auspice of Reverend Calvin O. Butts III, the Abyssinian Development Corporation has been a faithful advocate for the Harlem community. Through the Central Harlem Local Development Corporation, it has promoted economic development and has attracted various businesses and corporations into Harlem. It has also been mindful of the need to provide essential services to the community and has addressed issues such as the improvement of education. The Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change has operated a successful Head Start program. These programs have been beneficial to the development and revitalization of Harlem and the Abyssinian Development Corporation continues to defend the interests of the community.

Today, the Abyssinian Development Corporation hosted a day focused on community leaders and Harlem culture. They paid tribute to the economic work and leadership of several dignitaries and dedicate time to draw attention to local and historical attractions within the community. A street festival, gospel celebration, and neighborhood tour will further highlight the various aspects of Harlem culture.

The Abyssinian Development Corporation has done a superb job of standing up for the people of Harlem and fighting for their interests. I hope that my colleagues here today will join me in applauding the efforts of this group over the last two decades. I submit for the RECORD the following CaribNews article on the work of the Abyssinian Development Corporation in the Harlem Renaissance Day of Commitment.

HARLEM RENAISSANCE DAY OF COMMITMENT

June 7, 2005.—The Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC), an innovative not-for-profit organization dedicated to renewing and reclaiming the spirit of community in one of New York City's oldest and storied neighborhoods, announces its eleventh annual Harlem Renaissance Day of Commitment on June 7, 2005. The daylong celebration highlights ADC's accomplishments, diverse programs and services while showcasing the revival of Harlem.

This year's Renaissance Honorees include: Robert Rubin, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Citi-group, Inc.; Michael Lee-Chin, Chairman and Chief Executive Office, AIC, Limited; Ralph Lauren, Chairman & CEO of Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation; and Paula Madison, President and General Manager of NBC4 in Los Angeles.

The Leadership Breakfast is ADC's opportunity to honor those who have continually

and faithfully donated their time, resources and efforts to furthering the growth and revitalization of Harlem.

The day begins with a Leadership Breakfast, hosted by Rev. Calvin O. Butts III. The breakfast features more than 700 of New York's business, civic and political leaders and is held at the beautiful Great Hall of Shepard Hall, City College in the historic Hamilton Heights section of Harlem. The Leadership Breakfast (set to begin at 7:30 a.m.) will be preceded by a 7 a.m. VIP and press reception. Co-Chairs Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, Pastor, The Abyssinian Baptist Church; Edward Lewis, Co-founder, Publisher and CEO, Essence Communications; Sandra Parks, Chairman and Creative Director, The Daily Blossom; and Marianne Spragins, President, Buy Hold America will preside over both the Leadership Breakfast and the presentation of the 2005 Renaissance Awards, during a celebration that will include Gospel Music and Southern-infused Cuisine.

Following the Leadership Breakfast is a tour of Harlem's historic neighborhoods, including Astor Row, Mt. Morris Park, Sugar Hill, and Striver's Row. Guests will see firsthand the various projects and programs of ADC throughout Harlem. The tour concludes at Odell Clark Place and 138th Street, allowing participants to visit Abyssinian Baptist Church. In the afternoon, ADC hosts a Street Fair on Odell Clark Place, complete with free food, music, games, amusement rides, entertainment and health information. The culminating event of the Harlem Renaissance Day of Commitment is an evening reception, A Taste of Harlem by Candlelight, at the Great Hall. The evening will feature entertainment from famed rhythm revue DJ Felix Hernandez, live music from "Soulmites," and a sample from some of Harlem's and New York City's leading restaurants and caterers.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF GRISWOLD V. CONNECTICUT ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, we are fortunate to be able to say that most Americans now take for granted the right to access and use birth control. Yet, the 40th anniversary of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which first legalized the use of contraceptives, reminds us that it was not so long ago that this right was in great jeopardy. The importance and impact of this landmark decision cannot be underestimated.

Ninety-five percent of women in the U.S. now use some form of birth control during their childbearing years and the number of unintended pregnancies has dropped significantly as a result of this widespread use. Thanks to the many publicly funded programs, women in all socio-economic groups have increased access to birth control. The ability to control and plan for childbirth has also created considerable improvements in the health and well-being of women, children, and families. We have seen dramatic decreases in the rates of maternal and infant mortality, and, at the same time, dramatic increases in maternal and infant health. Women's ability to control their fertility has enabled them to enter the workforce in unprecedented numbers which has contributed to the overall prosperity of our national economy.

While these successes are certainly worthy of recognition, we cannot lose sight of the challenges that remain. Despite the reductions in unintended pregnancies we've seen, the U.S. continues to have one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancies among Western nations. Among teenage girls, the rate of unintended pregnancies remains above 75 percent and estimates show that more than one-third will become pregnant before the age of 20. Many barriers to widespread access to and use of contraceptives still exist. For instance, a number of states have enacted laws that allow health care providers and pharmacists to refuse to provide birth control. Unfortunately, under the current administration's "abstinence-only" approach to sex education, millions of children and adolescents each year are deprived of basic facts on contraception, and are instead being taught misleading information about reproductive health.

It is important to honor the 40th anniversary of Griswold not only to recognize the many accomplishments we've made in the 40 years since this landmark case, but also to remind ourselves of the work we have yet to do. We must continue to be unrelenting in our pursuit of the goal of creating unencumbered universal access to and use of contraceptives. Given the numerous successes of the last 40 years, I'm confident we can succeed.

KEEPING THE PROMISE TO OUR
DISABLED VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about two bills that I have introduced to better the lives of our Nation's disabled veterans. H.R. 1188, the "Disabled Veterans Right to Commissaries and Space Available Travel Act," will extend commissary and exchange store privileges to service-disabled veterans with a rating of 30% or more and to their families. Congress must do all we reasonably can for the men and women who have become disabled in their service to our Nation. Our disabled veterans are important members of the greater military family, and they should be treated as such with every available opportunity.

This bill will also authorize transportation on military aircraft on a space-available basis to service-disabled veterans with a rating of 50% or more. Currently, members and retirees of the uniformed services and the reserves may travel free on Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft when space is available. This benefit is allowed when it does not interfere with military missions, and it recognizes that military careers are filled with rigorous duty.

But present policies do not extend this benefit to our disabled veterans. What more rigorous duty can be imagined than to become disabled in the service of our country? Why has the DoD chosen not to recognize the brave men and women who sacrificed their health and well-being while serving in uniform? This DoD policy needs to be corrected.

Space-available travel for these disabled veterans would cost the Federal government nothing and would not interfere with active-duty personnel. Current military is always

given priority, and H.R. 1188 would do nothing to change that. What my bill will do is allow seats that would otherwise go unused to be occupied by men and women who have been disabled when serving their Nation.

I invite my colleagues to also support a second bill, H.R. 2747, the "Disabled Veterans Life Insurance Enhancement Act." This legislation will make improvements in insurance for veterans who are disabled in their service to our country.

When the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) began in 1951, it was intended to provide service-disabled veterans with the ability to purchase life insurance coverage at "standard" rates. Unfortunately, these life insurance premiums are based upon mortality rates for 1940, while current standard life insurance policies have premiums based upon the 2001 mortality table. This means that service-disabled veterans are being charged high premiums based on a table that is 60 years out of date. The Independent Budget, prepared and endorsed by many veterans service organizations, has recommended that the mortality table be updated so that service-disabled veterans pay lower premiums for insurance. My bill would provide insurance comparable to standard policies, based on 2001 tables. Another change will increase the amount of insurance available to \$50,000, purchased in increments of \$10,000.

Second, the VA provides mortgage life insurance (VMLI) to severely service-disabled veterans who qualify for specially adapted housing grants. Currently, this amount covers only about 55% of the outstanding mortgage balances at the veteran's death because the maximum amount has not been increased since 1992. We know how the cost of houses has skyrocketed since then in many areas of our country. In May, 2001, an evaluation by the Department of Veterans Affairs recommended that the coverage be increased, and The Independent Budget has also recommended that the coverage be increased. H.R. 2747 implements those recommendations by increasing the maximum to \$200,000 to cover 94% of mortgage balances outstanding. Veterans can choose lower coverage, if they wish.

These bills are the right steps to take for our disabled veterans. They have sacrificed their health and well-being for their country, and they have earned the right to these privileges. Please support these bills and work with me for their passage.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my opposition to Mr. Hunter's Manager Amendment to H.R. 1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Like so many of my colleagues, I was concerned about the original language in H.R. 1815, language that would have excluded women from 20,000 positions in which they have already served to great acclaim.

However, while the Manager's Amendment is an improvement upon the original language, it is still flawed.

First of all, the Hunter Amendment extends the notification period for changes to women's assignments from thirty to sixty legislative days, a period that could last as long as 4 to 5 months.

Mr. Chairman, I know how long debates on this floor can last, and I guarantee you, an Iraqi insurgent is not going to hold his fire until we have reached agreement on which positions women can fill.

In addition, the Hunter Amendment requires Army commanders to send more detailed reports to Congress about the kinds of enlisted jobs, or Military Occupational Specialties, they would like to open to women. Unfortunately, this will also have the effect, intended or not, of limiting women's roles in the military. Our generals are swimming in paperwork as it is. By burdening them with even more paperwork, the new provisions in the Hunter Amendment create an unnecessary and dangerous delay.

Now is the time to be praising women for their contributions to the war effort, not curtailing their roles. Army spokesperson Elizabeth Robbins recently declared, "Women soldiers are performing magnificently in all formations in which they are permitted to serve."

Mr. Chairman, this is high praise! Why are we trying to fix a problem that does not exist?

Today, women comprise a quarter of our available soldiers. As General Claudia Kennedy, the highest ranking woman ever to serve in the Army said to me, "Numbers matter! Why should we prohibit our brave soldiers from doing their jobs when the Army is having trouble recruiting?"

We should devote our time to enhancing soldiers' protections, not restricting women's roles.

Several months ago we learned that soldiers were digging up rusted scrap metal to protect unarmored vehicles. This is a problem worth fixing! The best way to protect our women and men in uniform is to guarantee them the armor, supplies and resources they need.

In April 2003, a soldier named Jessica Lynch captured our hearts. She also taught us an important lesson. Jessica Lynch was a member of the 507th Maintenance Company. Her convoy, a supply unit, was not supposed to be in the line of fire. But, Mr. Chairman, as Jessica Lynch's terrifying ordeal taught us, everywhere in Iraq is a potential combat zone, and every soldier is serving on the front lines.

I would like to thank Representatives SKELTON and WILSON for their hard work on this issue and for their advocacy for women's rights in the military.

I stand here in support of the military. My husband, brother and father all served with honor on our country's behalf. I am grateful for the sacrifice of each of our service men and women. But I did not come to Congress to restrict the roles of women anywhere.