

tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Seth has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on an amendment to H.R. 3058, which makes appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Mr. KING of Iowa's amendment, roll-call Number 341.

HONORING HAZEL HANON

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the extraordinary commitment and hard work of Hazel Hanon, a Charter Member of Marshall Post #3507 Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Britton, South Dakota.

Hazel joined the Ladies Auxiliary under the sponsorship of her husband, Leon Hanon who served in the United States Navy. Her son-in-law, Dempsey Rein served his country in the Air Force.

Over the years, Hazel has been involved in everything from collecting and sending care packages of toys and toothbrushes to be given to children in Iraq, writing to troops, raising funds by selling poppies and poppy decorations, compiling a recipe book honoring past and present military members and working at the Thanksgiving Turkey Night sponsored by the Post. She has also been committed to the Ladies Auxiliary's efforts to fundraise for important organizations like Fargo VA Hospital, Redfield State Hospital, Children's Care Center of Sioux Falls, VFW National Home, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, Britton Food Pantry, Cancer Relay for Life, Special Olympics, and Operation Uplink. Other efforts include collecting cans for the Shriners, pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, labels and box tops for local schools.

Hazel Hanon's commitment to the Ladies Auxiliary and to her community is something to be admired by all citizens. The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Hazel's compassion and service. She is an example to all of us, a woman devoted to her family, her community, her state and her nation. It is my hope that we all may contribute as much to those around us as Hazel has. Her contributions will never be forgotten.

BE ACTIVE FOR LIFE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of our population lives a sedentary lifestyle with poor dietary habits that regularly include "super-sized" meals. Such poor habits are particularly prevalent in our Nation's rural areas, including many of the North Carolina communities that I represent. These habits are increasing among older Americans. As a result, many rural Americans suffer from heart disease, diabetes and stroke. My home State of North Carolina ranks 12th in the United States for increased aging population and, according to a national report, 41st in overall health. According to this same report, individuals aged 50+ are the least healthy.

More than 20 years of research shows that inactivity and a sedentary lifestyle are more significant in the effect on health than genetic factors. The good news is that even minimal activity can significantly extend life. Regular physical activity promotes physical and psychological wellbeing; increases energy levels; helps older adults become stronger and maintain independence; reduces the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and colon cancer; and helps those with chronic disease manage their conditions better.

To help my constituents in the 6th District of North Carolina, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, a health care system in Pinehurst, North Carolina, implemented Active for Life, a research-based program that teaches mid-life and older adults how to change their behavior and incorporate physical activity into their everyday life. This program, a part of a national effort to get older Americans moving, has measurable results. Fewer than a quarter of the participants reported being fairly active at the beginning of the program. After completing the 20-week Active for Life program, a remarkable 81 percent reported that they are active most of the days of the week. By doing so, they meet the Surgeon General's recommendation and, more importantly, they lead healthier lives. Participants report that they think differently about health and look for opportunities to be active. A man from Pinehurst was able to avoid medications when his blood pressure became under control during the program, while another woman from Southern Pines reduced her cane use when walking.

The results achieved by FirstHealth and at other Active for Life sites demonstrate the effectiveness of such lifestyle programs. Participation in this type of evidence-based behavior change program is good preventive medicine, and an investment in these programs will save our health care dollars down the road. We need to get creative about getting Americans, particularly older Americans active. Incentives should be incorporated into health plans for patient and provider participation, and environmental changes should be made to develop "walkable communities." As a member of the United States Congress, I strongly urge decision-makers and community leaders to identify how they can take "action"—both behind the scenes, as they determine policy, and literally on the road as they walk for their health.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KEITH TALLEY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keith Talley for his distinguished service. For more than 6 years, Keith has committed himself to helping me better serve the residents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

A Middle Tennessee native, Keith has worked tirelessly as my press secretary. During that time, I know he sometimes has felt as if he carried the weight of the world on his shoulders. And now, Keith is leaving Washington, D.C., to return to the hills of Middle Tennessee.

Keith is an outstanding writer, a straight talker and a dedicated professional. He is capable of juggling many tasks and completing them all flawlessly. Keith's talents and attitude are assets that have served him well on Capitol Hill.

I and my staff will miss Keith dearly. His hearty laugh and workday songs have brightened the office during his time here. We will be sad to see him go, but we know the fishing holes are calling him home.

Keith, thank you for all your help over the years. I wish you all the best in your next endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DONNA REGAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the remarkable achievements of Donna Regan, a high school teacher from New Jersey.

Today, The Creative Coalition and The American Federation of Teachers honor Ms. Regan with a 2005 Spotlight Award for Teaching Excellence.

Ms. Regan comes to Washington, D.C., to accept her award with one of her former students, actor and co-president of The Creative Coalition, Joe Pantoliano. Mr. Pantoliano was a student in Ms. Regan's 12th grade English class at Cliffside Park High School in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, a public school that serves over 1,000 students. Ms. Regan's teaching inspired Mr. Pantoliano, both as a student and later as he pursued his career in acting.

I join Mr. Pantoliano as well as Ms. Regan's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating her today on her award and on her many years of enthusiastic teaching.

The Creative Coalition is the leading non-profit, nonpartisan, social and public advocacy organization of the arts and entertainment community. Founded in 1989 by prominent members of the creative community, The Creative Coalition is dedicated to educating and mobilizing its members on issues of public importance, primarily public education, the First Amendment, arts advocacy, and keeping film and television jobs in America. Headquartered in New York City, The Creative Coalition also has offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Creative Coalition's partner in presenting this award, The American Federation of Teachers, represents 1.3 million teachers, paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel, higher education faculty and staff, healthcare workers, and state and local government employees.

I commend both of these organizations for their dedication to the promotion of public schools. Public education is one of the most important foundations of this country, bringing together children from all walks of life and giving them the tools they need to succeed in the future. As such, I applaud The Creative Coalition and The American Federation of Teachers for their support of public schools and for honoring the achievements of educators like Ms. Regan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, I was attending a funeral and missed 2 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote number 324 and "yes" on recorded vote number 325. I also missed recorded vote number 331. Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES R. MAJOR— THE BETSY ROSS OF TODAY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize today the accomplishments of Frances R. Major of Royersford, Pennsylvania—whom I consider the Betsy Ross of today—as she retires her sewing needles with the Valley Forge Flag Company. Mrs. Major has been working at the Valley Forge Flag Company in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania since 1941 and has truly left her mark on history.

Not everyone could go to Pearl Harbor or Ground Zero, but Mrs. Major faithfully sewed our Stars and Stripes as our country's major historic events unfolded. Many flags were sewn through her tears, but it was always a labor of love and her patriotic honor to do something personally for America. "Each time something bad happened, it only made me sew that much faster," she said. Through good times and bad, her spirit remained strong and she literally stitched the bad times away finishing her work with her identification number seven in the upper left corner of the flag. The numbers were written so supervisors could track how many flags each seamstress had completed each day.

It is often said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. Mrs. Major leaves a significant legacy as a standard bearer for her profession. She continues to lead a life full of

love, friendship, hospitality and service to her family as well as her community. She is an exceptional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and American.

As we unfold and proudly wave an American flag, we might see Frances' number seven—her indelible mark on history. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 109th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Frances Major. On the occasion of her retirement, we thank her for her dedicated service and we wish her all the best in the future.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this Amendment that would properly fund the government-wide Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

In the wake of 9/11, many Americans have grown concerned that sweeping new law enforcement powers adopted to bolster national security may, in fact, be eroding the civil liberties that they were intended to protect.

The freedoms we enjoy as Americans—indeed, our way of life—are at risk if our government can spy and gather information on us simply under the guise of protecting those freedoms.

I know too well what happens when a government is left unchecked in its surveillance and spying efforts. While I was in college, I attended a speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. My government responded by creating an FBI file on me. It seems like a whole generation of innocent Americans are at risk of having files created on them.

Those of us in Congress tried to address potential governmental violation of civil liberties by creating a Civil Liberties Board as part of the 9/11 bill passed last December. This board was created in response to the 9/11 Commission's concerns that the government lacked "an enhanced system of checks and balances to protect the precious liberties that are vital to our way of life." We intended the Board to be the mechanism by which civil liberties and privacy considerations would be elevated throughout and within the Federal Government and its myriad operations and programs.

The President supported and signed the bill. And then failed to fund it less than two months later. He has failed to fund critical border and aviation initiatives contained in the bill. And he has failed to fully fund the Privacy and Civil

Liberties Board, giving it a mere \$750,000. This lack of funding for a Board—which, by the way, he took almost 6 months to name Members for—suggests a lack of serious commitment to the preservation of civil liberties and privacy rights.

Too often, this White House has chosen to simply ignore that which it doesn't like.

Congress didn't vote to ask the Administration to think about having a privacy and civil liberties board. On the contrary, it voted to establish the Board and then gave the White House the power to fund it in a bill that the President said he supported.

Without an adequate budget, however, the Board is only a shell—a powerless entity unequipped to accomplish the goals envisioned for it by the 9/11 Commission.

Funding the Civil Liberties Board will fulfill our commitment to protect the rights of all Americans as our Nation battles against domestic and international terrorism.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join in support of this amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Nadler-Shays-Crowley amendment to increase funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program by \$10 million to \$295 million.

HOPWA is the only Federal housing program that specifically provides cities and States hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

New treatments and medications are allowing those suffering with HIV and AIDS to live longer lives, and the housing provided by HOPWA allows people to improve the quality of their lives and access life-extending care.

But make no mistake about it, AIDS is still a debilitating disease and we must ensure those suffering have the assistance, both in medical care and housing, that they need.

And the fact is, without adequate housing and nutrition, it is extremely difficult for individuals to benefit from the new treatments.

HOPWA is one of HUD's most successful programs serving roughly 80,000 households across 39 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

The HOPWA program serves as seed money as each dollar used for HOPA housing assistance is matched by a dollar of housing assistance from other government and private sources.