

Mr. Speaker, it is with heart-felt sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting David Morales, a wonderful husband and father, a cherished friend, and an inspirational example of America's dream come true. May his generosity and dedication to opening doors for others be remembered and carried on by his family and those of us who were fortunate enough to call him friend. David, you left us more than you could ever know.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC
EXCELLENCE OF MARIBEL ZURITA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the athletic excellence of Maribel Zurita.

Maribel Zurita made her pro boxing debut on July 31, 2001, in San Antonio, the city where she was born and raised. San Antonio still serves as her base, and she continues to train in the area. Maribel held the IFBA Flyweight title from 2004 to 2005.

Aptly nicknamed "Little Thunder," Zurita more than makes up for her smaller size through a fierce tenacity and effervescent energy in the ring. She possesses a unique combination of grace and toughness which, when complemented by her skill and agility, make her a formidable opponent.

Maribel has succeeded in raising the profile of an industry so often dominated by men through her charismatic style and charm. She wins over fans of all ages and nationalities with ease. Zurita brings a professional attitude and a commitment to sportsmanship, characteristics that are all too often absent in many aspects of today's professional athletics.

I am honored to recognize Maribel Zurita for her remarkable success in athletics and beyond. Her work ethic and dedication provide an outstanding example for any aspiring athlete.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE MESQUITE RE-
PUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Mesquite Republican Women. On July 14, 1975, at the home of Mrs. Poppy Airhart, the Mesquite Republican Women were formed, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past 30 years the Mesquite Republican Women has worked hard to promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and to elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House.

The Mesquite Republican Women are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. The Mesquite Republican Women continue to strengthen the Re-

publican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Today, I would like to honor the first officers of the Mesquite Republican Women. President Mrs. Kay Ballard, 1st Vice President Mrs. Poppy Airhart, 2nd Vice President Mrs. Janice Houston, 3rd Vice President Mrs. Elaine Bernhagen, Secretary Mrs. Jonette Thornhill, and Treasurer Mrs. Ginger Kraft. These strong Republican women embody the energy, visions and values of our party.

THE APOLLO THEATER PROVISION
CONTAINED IN THE HIGHWAY
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues on the highway conference for including in the highway conference report a provision that would allow the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York, to apply for historic tax credits, notwithstanding their remaining two EDA grants from the Economic Development Administration.

As most of my colleagues know, the 1,500 seat Apollo Theater is truly "where stars are born and legends are made." A historic landmark building, the Apollo was responsible for launching the careers of artists including Sarah Vaughn, Elle Fitzgerald, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Ray Charles and Luther Vandross, just to name a few. The Apollo is also an economic engine for the community with annual audiences of over 400,000 which generates almost \$100 million annually to the local economy.

The 1914 Apollo building had begun to decay over the years and in the year 2000 the foundation began a capital campaign to make needed repairs and upgrades. The foundation has raised over \$35 million from the public and private sectors to date.

The language included in the conference report on H.R. 3, will allow the Apollo Theater to capture other fundraising venues, including historic tax credits, notwithstanding the EDA grants numbered 01-01-07308 and 01-01-07552. The language would release EDA from the perimeters of the two grants and thus allow the Apollo to complete the renovation.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their consideration and approval of this provision and I yield the floor.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CAREFLITE EMER-
GENCY RESCUE TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise so that I may celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CareFlite Emergency Rescue Team. This non-profit rescue organization provides a crucial service to north central Texas serving

nearly six million people in 100 counties and communities within a 150-mile radius of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Just this past year, CareFlite answered the call of duty 19,000 times with one of their six helicopters or one of their 21 ambulances. They are able to get a medical team to a site, stabilize the injured and transport them to the nearest medical facilities in a matter of minutes. Especially in situations where injuries affect several systems, this quick response time can make all the difference.

Beyond saving lives, CareFlite is very active in the communities which it serves. They offer the "Third Rider" and "Landing Zone" programs to educate other medical professionals about their area of expertise; and, perhaps most importantly, CareFlite works closely with the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to put on their "Shattered Dreams" program to educate high school students about the dangers of underage drinking.

CareFlite provides an invaluable service to the Metroplex and it is imperative that we recognize that service. These men and women who dedicate their lives to saving others truly make every precious minute count.

H.R. 3199: USA PATRIOT AND TER-
RORISM PREVENTION REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the bill we consider today—H.R. 3199—which extends certain controversial provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, the PATRIOT Act is already the law of the land. However, what we consider today—and what I am opposing—are the extension of 16 sunsetted provisions that increase access to personal information. I voted to support the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001; I did so because there was a structured and reasonable limit to how long these questionable provisions would be in effect. In the bill we consider today, the sunsets have been either removed or extended to such unreasonable lengths that they are rendered pointless.

In the 4 years since the bill has passed, little effort has been expended to ensure that the civil liberties of the American people are not being violated. As such, I will oppose this bill today, but I do not foreclose supporting this bill in the future should it come back with improved and more acceptable language that provides for the strong oversight we need to effectively combat terrorism while at the same time maintaining our civil liberties.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSA PARKS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to Rosa Parks, considered to be the pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, who protested the discrimination of

Black bus riders by refusing to give her seat to a white man in 1955. Her subsequent arrest generated the Civil Rights Movement. She once said in regards to her protest, "I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move."

Her story is told to emphasize the power of one. One person can make a fleeting decision to impact the consciousness of society, by standing up for what they believe in. One person can cause the world to pay attention. One person can change the course of history.

Rosa Parks is one of many, and she is well deserving of this recognition.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this conference report—but only because it includes an essential immediate increase in funding for veterans health care.

This has been a long time coming. Last September, many of us sought to provide a \$2.5 billion increase over the Bush Administration's budget for veterans' health care. Earlier this year, Members on our side of the aisle made an unsuccessful effort to add \$1.2 billion for veterans' health care to the emergency supplemental appropriations for military activities in Afghanistan and Iraq. And over the last month, the Republican leadership led successful efforts to block consideration of amendments to add the needed funds for VA health care.

Things finally changed when the Bush Administration finally acknowledged a \$1 billion shortfall in veterans' health care for FY 2005, which had been well known since spring. When that happened, the Senate added \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding to this bill because it was the most convenient legislative vehicle—and the conferees wisely agreed to retain it in the conference report.

This additional \$1.5 billion is essential if we are to make any claim to meeting our moral obligation to America's veterans and returning soldiers. Because of its inclusion, I will vote for the conference report, even though the rest of the conference report does not deserve to pass.

Except for the veterans' health funding, this conference report falls short across the board.

It once again fails to provide the authorized funding for the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes program, shortchanging the counties and other local governments in Colorado and across the country for whom these "PILT" payments are so important.

It does not provide enough funds to enable the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, or the Forest Service to properly manage the federal lands for which they are responsible.

And it inadequately funds many other agencies as well, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency, which will be cut by about

3 percent from this fiscal year. I am particularly concerned about deep cuts to EPA's state grants (down nearly \$400 million from fiscal 2005), which support environmental protection programs through grants to State, local and tribal governments, and a \$24 million shortfall for EPA science and technology research.

Of course, Colorado will benefit from funding earmarked for projects in several parts of the state. But the needs of many communities will go unmet, and opportunities to acquire high-priority lands such as those in the Beaver Brook watershed in Clear Creek County will be missed.

Finally, the bill includes extensive legislative provisions authorizing the Forest Service to sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise convey lands that the Forest Service identifies as "administrative sites"—including forest headquarters, ranger stations, research stations, or laboratories, among many other kinds of sites.

Mr. Speaker, this part of the conference report originated in the Senate. Inclusion of such legislative provisions in a general appropriation bill is contrary to the House rules, because it properly should be handled by the authorizing committee—the Committee on Resources—in an orderly fashion that allows for hearings and the consideration of amendments.

It would have been far better for the House conferees to have rejected it and enabled our committee to consider it in that fashion. However, I want to express my appreciation for the fact that the conferees did make very important changes in the Senate-passed language.

In particular, I am glad that they included an explicit requirement for the Forest Service to consult with affected local governments and to provide public notice regarding their plans for disposing of properties covered by this part of the conference report. And I think that excluding visitor centers and potential inholdings as well as lands providing access to other lands or waters were valuable changes, as was the requirement that the Forest Service provide advance notice to Congress of planned disposals and the reaffirmation that environmental analysis of proposed disposals include consideration of the "no action" alternative as required by NEPA.

While this legislation will remain in effect only through fiscal 2008, the statement of managers clearly signals an expectation that Congress will be asked to renew it or perhaps even make it permanent. If that should occur, I will do all I can to make sure that the Resources Committee is responsible for considering such legislation and that it is not accomplished by inclusion of legislation in an appropriations measure.

STATES MUST LEAD IN PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the June 23rd decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Kelo v. New London* has raised concern about the potential abuse of the power of eminent domain by local governments.

I share that concern, which is why I voted for the resolution (H. Res. 340) expressing the House's disagreement with that decision.

Congress may consider proposals for even stronger legislative responses. I think that is completely appropriate, and well may support legislation on this subject.

At the same time, however, I think it is important to remember that the primary responsibility in this area rests with the States and their local governments.

As I said during debate on the resolution passed by the House, while (in the words of the resolution) "Congress maintains the prerogative and reserve the right to address through legislation any abuses of eminent domain by State and local government," Congress can only take such action in ways that are themselves consistent with the Constitution.

Further, I think we should be reluctant to take actions to curb what some—perhaps even a temporary majority—in Congress might consider improper actions by a State or local government.

Thy States, through their legislatures or in some cases by direct popular vote, can put limits on the use of eminent domain by their agencies or local governments. I think this would be the best way to address potential abuses, and I think we in Congress should consider taking action to impose our ideas of proper limits only as a last resort.

That point was well made in a recent column by State Senator Lois Tochtrop, with whom I had the honor to serve when I was in the Colorado legislature.

In that column, Senator Tochtrop writes "There's only one piece of 'good news' for Colorado citizens in the recent Supreme Court decision. The high court left it up to state legislatures to control city bureaucrats bent on turning your home or business into a new strip mall. Here in Colorado, legislators have lots to do. . . . I will reintroduce legislation in the upcoming session to stop cities from abusing the power of eminent domain by giving corporate welfare to retailers while the taxpayers pay the bills."

I commend Senator Tochtrop for her leadership on this important issue. For the information of our colleagues, here is the complete text of her recent column:

[From the (Boulder, Colorado) Daily Camera—July 14, 2005]

STATE MUST PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS
(By Sen. Lois Tochtrop)

Founding father James Madison: "Government (is) instituted to protect property of every sort. That alone is a just government which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own."

United States Supreme Court: "Never mind!"

You've heard the bad news. If Wal-Mart or other big boxes want to take your home or business for a new store, that's OK by the U.S. Supreme Court. All big developers must do is convince property tax hungry city officials that the public will benefit. As we've seen in Colorado, that doesn't take much convincing.

Time was cities used eminent domain to condemn private property only for "public use" like roads, libraries or parks. Now, the Supreme Court says it's constitutional for government to take your property to build that Wal-Mart or Walgreen's, as long as there is some "public benefit." That promised benefit is the torrent of tax money that