

of West Papua and will have authority to select the candidates for governor of Papua. But, even while awaiting the establishment of the council, the process to nominate some candidates to be governor of Papua is proceeding. I am informed that the Special Commission of the District Parliament of Papua is developing preparations for elections for regional governor. When those preparations are completed, the Commission will send a list of candidates to the People's Council of Papua to be selected to participate in the election.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the government and people of Indonesia for this new and highly important step in instituting democracy in this great country. Regardless of the difficulties encountered in conducting local elections throughout this vast nation, the Administration of President Yudhoyono and the regional authorities demonstrated determination to follow the path to democracy. Just as important, the Indonesian people responded by coming out to the polls in huge numbers. Indonesia deserves high praise for its remarkable accomplishments in breaking with a legacy of dictatorship, and ethnic and religious strife, to successfully implement democratic principles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two votes on November 1, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 557: H.R. 3548—Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 558: H.R. 3989—Albert Harold Quie Post Office Designation Act—I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence during yesterday's recorded votes. As a proud grandfather, it is with exceeding pride that I announce the birth yesterday of my first granddaughter to my son Brian and my daughter-in-law Meredith. My wife, Faye, and I joyfully welcome this new baby girl who joins her cousin William Otto, who was born to our daughter Catherine and our son-in-law Tim Otto in January. This is a special time for the Etheridge family, and we are truly blessed.

Had I been present in the Chamber yesterday, I would have voted "No" on rollcall 559 and "Yes" on rollcalls 560 and 561. Rollcall 560 was passage of H.R. 4061, Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Improvement Act, a bipartisan and noncontroversial measure. Likewise, rollcall 561 was passage of H.R. 1691, the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act, a routine matter.

However, rollcall 559 was passage of H.R. 1606, the so-called Online Freedom of Speech Act. This substantive legislation would undo Federal regulation of soft money for political communication on the Internet. Consideration of such substantive legislation on the Suspension Calendar, which affords no opportunity for amendment and severely restricts debate, is an improper and ill-advised method to craft sound public policy. I would have voted "No" on rollcall 559 in favor of its consideration under regular order.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF RAMONA, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ramona, KS, for successful community revitalization efforts.

Pat Wick and Jessica Gilbert have always considered this town of 100 people to be home. It is where their parents were born and raised. As children, these sisters would accompany their parents on annual visits from their home in California to help their grandparents with summer harvest. As adults, Pat worked as a clinical psychologist and Jessica was a philanthropic organization consultant.

When they returned to Ramona in 1989 for a family reunion, the sisters felt a strong pull to come home. They reestablished their roots building by building. In 1990, Pat purchased and the sisters renovated a home they now call The Ramona House, in honor of their ancestors. Pat and Jessica purchased a second house in 1995 and remade it into Cousin's Corner bed and breakfast. The sisters purchased a third home that is now a lodge called Jake's Place. All of this was accomplished through frequent visits to Ramona, even while Pat and Jessica continued their careers in California.

By the year 2000, Pat and Jessica decided to take the final step and moved home. The sisters now live in the Ramona House and operate Jake's Place and Cousin's Corner. More recently, they purchased the old bank building and turned it into The Dirt Gamblers Museum, which is home to photographs and other items honoring Ramona's pioneer history. The sisters have also contributed to the revitalization of Ramona through extensive community involvement. They have helped organize several civic and community events, including a spring tea party, a citywide Memorial Day service, a Main Street Fourth of July parade and an outdoor Nativity in the city park complete with live animals and singing angels. In an effort to celebrate Halloween and promote regional tourism, Pat and Jessica are currently helping promote a Scarecrow parade in Ramona and several other area communities. If all of that isn't enough, Pat is the town's mayor and Jessica is the city clerk.

At age 93, Tony Meyer is Ramona's oldest citizen. He believes Pat and Jessica are doing great things for the community. "The sisters have awakened this town again," Meyer said. Warren Fike, a lifetime resident, also notices a positive change. "Having the sisters come in has helped keep Ramona alive," Fike said. "The steps they've taken to improve the town

have motivated more people here to help, too."

The sisters believe Ramona's revitalization is beginning to take hold. "We're romantics, and we have a passion for this place," Jessica said. "We want people to be proud they're connected to the town and want them to invest in it again." "It's a special place," Pat noted. "It's Mayberry R.F.D. come to life."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Ramona are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Ramona is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL HILLEGONDS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Hillegonds, an individual who has served the residents of Michigan through the years with great distinction. Throughout his career in public service, Paul tirelessly worked for the betterment of our great State and continues to impact countless individuals through his professional and community affiliations.

Paul served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1979 to 1996, and was speaker his final two years in elected office. In 1997, Paul embarked on a new path of service, taking the reins as president of Detroit Renaissance, a non-profit, civic organization comprising Southeast Michigan's business leaders.

Paul has received numerous honors throughout his distinguished career, and I am pleased to call him a friend. Paul and I go back a long way—all the way back, in fact, to when he was Administrative Assistant for U.S. Representative Ruppe and I was a staffer for Representative Dave Stockman.

Our friendship has only strengthened over time. His wife and kids are good family friends and we have enjoyed each other both in and out of public service. Paul has always stood for the right things and he has displayed the utmost integrity. Unfortunately term limits cost us his leadership as speaker of the Michigan House, but his leadership for the folks of Michigan continues.

I look forward to many more years of Paul's friendship. We are all better off for Paul's service to the State of Michigan, and I wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on November 1 and 2, 2005, I was absent for several votes for

personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No., description, vote: 557, Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building, "yes"; 558, Albert Harold Quie Post Office Building, "yes"; 559, Online Freedom of Speech Act, "no"; 560, VA Information Technology, "yes"; and 561, John Bradley Outpatient Clinic, "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) on their 30th anniversary. Throughout their 30 years, this group of dedicated students has been the primary advocates for fellow undergraduates in the State of Missouri. Known as the student voice in the Missouri State government, the organization has been essential to craft and advance legislation that has benefited higher education in Missouri. In addition, ASUM has been the training ground for students interested in entering public service, the political arena, and is responsible for producing some of today's top government employees serving the State of Missouri.

ASUM encourages students to become educated about the political process, and by doing so increases awareness, concern, and participation of young adults in democracy. ASUM's political action began on the campus of University of Missouri-Columbia in 1975. After successful participation by the students at the campus in Columbia, the student leaders expanded the organization to the other campuses within the University of Missouri System: Kansas City, St. Louis, and Rolla, where participation among the students exceeded expectations.

Serving as the student voice in the federal government, state government, and on the various campuses of the University of Missouri, ASUM is responsible for the creating a student representative position on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. The student representative affords the opportunity for the Board of Curators to truly hear and value the students' perspective on issues affecting the University System. Keeping the student views in the forefront of Universities' agenda, the Board of Curators passed a policy allowing the ASUM student representative to attend closed board meetings. The over-arching impact of the policy addition was to remind the Board of Curators that every institutional change had to be in the best interest of the students.

As the primary advocate of students in Missouri, the ASUM established through legislation the Bright Flight Scholarship, the most important source of financial aid for scholars from the State of Missouri. The annual \$2,000 scholarship was created to encourage top ranked high school seniors to attend approved Missouri postsecondary schools. The program is geared to the top 3 percent of all Missouri high school students who have a minimum ACT score of 30 or a minimum SAT score of 780 math and 780 verbal. By requiring the student to maintain satisfactory academic

progress and full time employment, this scholarship program helps the student to learn how to effectively manage their time and balance priorities. In addition to the Bright Flight Scholarship Program, the ASUM created Missouri State law to exempt sales taxes on textbooks, which has saved students in Missouri \$6 million dollars every year since its enactment in 1999. Finally, the student political activists created a loan forgiveness program for teachers, medical doctors, and veterinarians who serve in high need areas of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the dedication of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri and their relentless efforts in extending their voices to represent all of the students of Missouri. It is essential for the members of the ASUM and other student organizations to be celebrated for their good works, for the students of today are truly our leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING SPC DERENCE JEFFREY W. JACK AND SSG WILGENE T. LIETO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the two soldiers from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands who became casualties of Operation Iraqi Freedom on October 31, 2005 in Iraq. Specialist Derence Jeffrey W. Jack and Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto made the ultimate sacrifice in support of the global war on terror, and in doing so, helped to preserve our freedom. SSG Lieto served in Iraq as a Sergeant—the U.S. Army awarded him a posthumous promotion to Staff Sergeant. These soldiers left their homes and their families to answer the call of duty as members of the E Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army Reserve. On behalf of our communities in the Northern Marianas and Guam, I join with our local leaders in offering our sincerest condolences to the family of Derence Jeffrey W. Jack, especially his wife Melissa Jack and their daughter, and to the family of Wilgene T. Lieto, especially his wife Tiara Lieto and their son and daughter. The service and sacrifice of these soldiers will always be remembered and I join our Pacific island community in honoring the patriotism of these Army reservists. Derence Jeffrey W. Jack, from Gualo Rai, Saipan, was a manager at the Bank of Guam branch in Saipan. Wilgene T. Lieto, from Tanapag, Saipan, was a police officer. SPC Jack and SSG Lieto were part of the "Go For Broke" Battalion, serving with fellow soldiers from Guam, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and Hawaii. Although their loss brings great sadness to the people of the Northern Marianas and Guam, we take comfort in knowing that these soldiers served with honor. May God bless them and their families.

DEMOCRATS' CLIMATE PUSH MAY SQUEEZE GOP MODERATES ON SCIENCE PANEL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this article from InsideEPA to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A novel effort by 150 House Democrats to require that the White House turn over documents showing what it knows about climate change effects on U.S. coastal regions may force key Republican moderates to choose party loyalty over their environmental records, or risk leaving themselves open to attacks from conservative opponents in upcoming primaries, sources say.

Rep. DENNIS KUCINICH (D-OH) has initiated a rare House procedure with the backing of 150 of his Democratic colleagues that seeks information from the executive branch on how climate change has affected U.S. coastal regions. If H.R. 515, a "resolution of inquiry," (ROI) passes with the support of key GOP moderates on the House Science Committee and the full House, it would require the president within 14 days to turn over documents related to climate change impacts on coastal areas. Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com.

KUCINICH's resolution does not specifically mention hurricanes, but congressional staffers familiar with the effort say Congress is growing more concerned that climate change may have increased hurricane severity in light of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "This has been a brutal hurricane season and many think climate change will be the defining problem of our generation. We want to know what [President Bush] knew," according to one staffer. The effort comes as Republican environment committee senators are quashing suggestions that increased sea surface temperatures could be linked to the recent spike in hurricane activity.

Observers say the ROI will present House Science Committee Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY), Rep. VERNON EHLERS (R-MI) and Rep. WAYNE GILCHREST (R-MD) with a critical choice between siding with their party in deflecting attention from the president's climate policies and their environmental records, which have won them praise and endorsements from environmental groups. Their decisions on the matter may prove crucial during their 2006 primaries, where at least one is expected to face a tough fight against a more conservative GOP candidate.

Although the ROI measure has no Republican co-sponsors, BOEHLERT has a track record of backing efforts to address climate change that is adding to Democrats' optimism that the measure may make it to the House floor for a vote, sources say. "Boehlert's support [for previous efforts to allow more open scientific debate on climate change] makes us hopeful," according to one source.

For instance, BOEHLERT last summer sharply criticized efforts by House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman JOE BARTON (R-TX) to investigate the findings and funding sources of three prominent climate scientists. In a July 14 letter, BOEHLERT characterized BARTON's requests as "pernicious" and