

recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in their April 2004 report to Representative JOHNSON and Representative BAIRD. These provisions will improve the process for evaluating appointees to federal scientific advisory committees and make the advisory committee appointment and deliberation process more transparent to the public.

We need this legislation. The Administration has turned a deaf ear on the science community's call to restore scientific integrity in policymaking, including the voices of 48 Nobel Laureates, 62 National Medal of Science recipients, and 135 members of the National Academy of Sciences. While it is true that no Administration has been immune from the temptation to politicize science or has failed to succumb on occasion to this illness, the chronic condition displayed by this Administration requires strong medicine.

Two years ago, the Administration suggested that the incidents raised by the press, by Representative WAXMAN's Government Reform Committee staff report, and in the February 2004 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists were a series of misunderstandings or a partisan effort to defame the Bush Administration's science policies.

However, reports of the manipulation of science and information by the Administration have continued unabated. The diversity of complaints and their sources is unprecedented. Incidents have been reported by the non-governmental science community, former appointees of both Republican and Democratic administrations, Inspectors General of federal agencies, and career federal scientists.

Just this past week, two additional incidents have emerged. EPA's Inspector General issued a report indicating the Agency's senior management instructed EPA staff to produce a standard to fit a pre-determined national emission limit for mercury from power plants. And a survey of federal scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service released by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility indicates a serious morale problem and a disturbing pattern of suppression and manipulation of scientific results by political appointees at the Agency.

Federal scientists should be free to conduct their research without fear of political censorship. Federal scientists should be active participants in the larger scientific community. Scientific progress occurs when we foster the open exchange of ideas and information. We must maintain a culture of openness and freedom of inquiry if we are to maintain the pre-eminent status of this nation in the world scientific community, develop new technologies, and to safeguard our environment and public health.

It is common in Washington to talk about the importance of basing government policy on reliable scientific and technical information and analyses. We can only accomplish that if politics does not unduly influence the objectivity and independence of our nation's scientific enterprise. The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act of 2005 will ensure that scientific integrity remains the hallmark of all science conducted in this nation. I urge all my colleagues to join Representative WAXMAN and me in support of this legislation.

EXPRESSING SADNESS UPON THE PASSING OF JUDGE HENRY LATIMER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express great sadness about the tragic death of my good friend, former Broward Circuit Court Judge Henry Latimer.

Known by his friends as 'Lat', Henry Latimer was an extraordinary gentleman who achieved great success as a teacher, lawyer, judge, and trial attorney. Growing up in Jacksonville's projects, he attended segregated schools and was initially unable to supplement scholarship offers he had received from colleges around the country. Instead, he chose to serve in the U.S. Marines for 3 years and went on to teach economics and history at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale.

From humble beginnings, Judge Latimer proved himself to be a hard-working and scholarly professional. He received a bachelor's degree at Florida A&M University, a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University, was employed by the U.S. Labor Department, and in 1970, enrolled as the only Black law student at the University of Miami.

In 1979, Judge Latimer was appointed to the Broward Circuit Court, only the third African-American to do so, and was soon after rated the "most qualified" judge in the Circuit. Twice nominated for a federal judgeship, Lat stepped down from the bench to work for a large firm and established the Laura Latimer Free Legal Clinic in memory of his late sister.

Most recently, Henry Latimer was a trial attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Greenberg Traurig. There he had become very involved in cases of civil rights, wrongful discharge, sexual harassment, age discrimination and legal malpractice. In all these areas, judges and lawyers alike have relied on him for his legal expertise and professionalism.

Many, as I did, also relied on him as a mentor and a friend. Judge Latimer and I became close personal friends while serving on the bench and he has been an invaluable source of support. He has made a profound contribution to the legal community as exemplified by his impressive achievements. I will greatly miss his wise counsel, compassion and unwavering personal support during the good times and the bad. As a friend, the loss is simply immeasurable.

Listing his many achievements does little to encompass Henry Latimer's exceptional life. He succeeded in the face of adversity through sheer determination, hard work and a faith in the law. This country has lost a great man in Judge Latimer, and he will be sorely missed by all.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my great sadness. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I offer my deepest sympathies to Judge Latimer's family, his wife Mildred, and his two daughters.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO MILDRED J. CAIN BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Mildred J. Cain Burks, of Carroll County, Mississippi. Though small of stature, Burks was very powerful in her speech and way of life. Ms. Burks founded the Senior Citizens Lunch Program and the Boys and Girls Club in Carroll County. In addition, Ms. Burks, along with her husband, Winston Burks, started the Burks No. 506 Order of the Eastern Star.

Ms. Burks was a member of the NAACP for many years and very active during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Ms. Burks was a very humble and dedicated woman with a purpose. She worked tirelessly for the betterment of her community especially with the younger generation.

It is with this vision that she purchased property for the children in the community to use as a park for them to play. Although she had no children, she felt she was blessed to have so many children in the community that were just like her own. Despite chronic health problems, she never gave up in trying to make a difference in the community. One of her last quotes was, "I am not as fast as I used to be, but I'll do what I call. I have no regrets of what I've done in my life or how I used my time."

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 838—THE HOPE AT HOME ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the role of the National Guard and Reserve in our military forces has changed. The days of these forces simply providing replacement manpower for active duty personnel in the event of a conflict are no more. Since September 11, 2001 more than 400,000 members

of the Reserve Component have been activated for either homeland security or overseas missions. As of January 5, 2005 there are 180,000 citizen soldiers currently on active duty and it is well documented that the Guard and Reserve comprise more than 40% of the American forces in Iraq.

The Guard and Reserve have performed their patriotic services admirably. However, as these forces were utilized more there was an initial concern that increased mobilizations would lead to a fall off in recruitment and retention. Now, after three years, these fears are coming true. This past January the Army National Guard failed to achieve its recruiting goal by falling shy of its target by 44% and last year the Army Reserves fell about 10% short of its recruiting goal. Equally distressing was a memo written in early January 2005 by Lt. General James Hemly, Chief of the Army Reserves, that stated his belief that the United States Army Reserve was degenerating into a broken force because of dysfunctional military policies.

While the problems that are causing these drops in recruitment and retention are varied, one complaint that has been voiced is that the activations are occurring more frequently and for longer periods of time, and that the resulting stress on the soldier's family is causing him or her to leave the force. In particular, it is the lost income that many citizen soldiers encounter as a result of their activation that places significant stress on families.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, our citizen soldiers are asked to make many sacrifices; sometimes they make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. In addition for each National Guardsman and Reservist serving abroad, there is also a family at home who is also making sacrifices for their country. Husbands and wives, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers—all are asked to endure the temporary absence of a loved one and the fear that they may not return.

Unfortunately, many of these families also suffer from a loss of income. This is because when a National Guardsman or Reservist is called to active duty, their civilian job—and civilian salary—is placed on hiatus and they begin receiving military pay for their service, an amount that is often significantly less than their civilian salary. According to the General Accountability Office (GAO) more than 40% of the Guard and Reserves suffer from a loss in income as a result of their activation.

This "pay gap" forces National Guard and Reservists' families to pinch to make ends meet. Grocery budgets are trimmed, rent or mortgage payments are paid late, credit cards are run up, and other important purchases are postponed. Many family members of Reservists are forced to work overtime, dip into savings, borrow, or even go on welfare to pay the bills.

Mr. Speaker, too many members of our reserve components are faced with the difficult choice of defending their country or providing for their family, a choice that I am certain you will agree with me is unconscionable.

This pay gap, which is causing so much unnecessary stress, can be easily mitigated if the employer of the activated soldier suffering from a pay gap contributes differential payments to their employee. Already there are over 500 conscientious employers who have taken it upon themselves to commence these

payments and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was correct in applauding them in an open letter dated September 11, 2002, a copy of which I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Unfortunately, it was recently reported that many of these employers are now being forced to scale back or even to cease making these payments to their activated employees. Mr. Speaker, in order to help those employers, to encourage others, and to protect the financial security of more than 40% of our citizen soldiers, I am pleased to be joined by my distinguished colleagues, SAM GRAVES, JIM MCGOVERN and CHRIS SHAYS in introducing bipartisan common-sense legislation to fix the problem of the pay gap.

Our legislation, H.R. 838, entitled the Help Our Patriotic Employers at Helping our Military Employees, or HOPE at HOME Act provides numerous incentives to all of the employers in our country to make it financially attractive to make up any pay gaps that their citizen soldier employee faces as a result of his or her activation. Furthermore, by eliminating the pay gap and protecting the financial security of the families of activated Reservists and National Guard our legislation will reduce the stress of activation and ensure that our nation's military reserve components are able to maintain appropriate retention and recruitment levels.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 838 is designed to provide hope for the citizen soldier that is suffering from a pay gap. The hope is that his home will remain financially secure in his absence. In order to accomplish this, the legislation provides numerous tax incentives to non-federal employers. As I previously mentioned, there are numerous private employers that have taken the conscientious initiative of paying their employees the difference between their civilian and military salary. In fact, according to the Employee Support for Guard and Reserve—an outreach organization run by the Office of Secretary of Defense—there are currently over 500 private employers, state governments and municipal jurisdictions that have undertaken differential payments for their employees. As a reward for these conscientious employers and as an incentive for others to join them, The HOPE at HOME Act creates a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount the employer pays to the Reservist, capped at \$30,000 per employee.

H.R. 838 also recognizes that smaller companies are disproportionately adversely affected by an employee's activation, since losing two people of 10-person business is akin to losing 100 people at a 500-person plant. In addition smaller companies often encounter greater difficulty in distributing an activated employees' responsibilities amongst the remaining employees and may need to hire temporary replacement workers. In order to provide relief to these small businesses, which H.R. 838 defines as those with 50 or fewer employees, as well as to ensure that the small business employers can make differential payments for their activated employees the legislation provides an additional tax credit of \$12,000 for the costs associated with hiring/training the temporary replacement worker contingent on the small business employer making pay differential payments to their activated employee.

The HOPE at HOME act also recognized the difficulties that those reservists who are self employed face when they are activated. These soldiers often face the most grievous

setbacks as their carefully built companies lose business, struggle to survive or are forced to close due to their prolonged absence. Mr. Speaker, our legislation creates an important tax incentive designed to assist the self-employed citizen soldier in defraying the costs of hiring someone to keep their business running in their absence.

The HOPE at HOME Act also recognizes that because the Federal government is the single largest employer of citizen soldiers it should lead by example. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Federal government is the civilian employer for more than 13% of the Reserve Component. That is why the HOPE at HOME act requires the Federal government to eliminate the pay gap for its employees.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also makes some technical changes about how these differential pay payments are to be recorded. Currently the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treats these payments as benefits requiring reporting on the 1099 form. This is a burden for the employee and the employer, as it requires quarterly filing of estimated tax burdens. Our legislation requires the IRS to treat these payments as wages, which means that employers would be able to use the more accessible W2 form, thereby reducing a possible burden that may have prevented employers from making these types of payments in the past.

Finally the HOPE at HOME Act makes it easier for employers to contribute to their activated employees retirement plans while the employee is serving our country. As our colleagues are aware, under The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) the law that governs the activations and deactivations of Guard and Reserves, an employee who is activated to serve is "separated" from his civilian employer and therefore, if that employer wanted to contribute to its activated employees' retirement fund (IRA, 401(k) etc) the employer would not receive the tax benefit anymore because of the fiction of the employees separation. The HOPE at HOME act removes this barrier and allows employers to continue to contribute to the retirement funds of their activated citizen soldier employee's.

Mr. Speaker, our citizen soldiers are a valuable and essential component of our military and we can ill afford to continue down this path of overextending these brave men and women. Clearly, those citizens who enlist in the Guard or Reserve do so because of an admirable sense of patriotism to our country. However, we cannot ask these citizen soldiers to sacrifice their families' financial security in order to carry out their patriotic duty. I urge all of our colleagues to join Mr. GRAVES, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MCGOVERN and myself in supporting this bipartisan effort and join us in working for its expedited passage.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, September 11, 2003.

AN OPEN LETTER TO AMERICA'S EMPLOYERS: Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Defense has mobilized more than 295,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen in response to the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. These dedicated men and women—citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen—have been engaged in and around the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as providing security here at home and in other critical locations around the world.

This would not have been possible without the strong backing of America's employers. I

want to express my gratitude to all employers who have demonstrated support for this national crisis by swiftly releasing your valuable employees for military service. It is equally gratifying to see how you are welcoming back these returning warriors and reinstating them in their jobs. During the period of mobilization, many of you did more than was required by law by voluntarily offering continued benefits, pay differentials, and additional, creative forms of family support which made the period of separation so much easier to bear. I know of no other time in our nation's history when so many employers have voluntarily offered this level of support and benefits.

I recognize that these generous actions have not been without sacrifice. Each of you has earned the deepest appreciation of this Department and the United States Government for your unswerving support of our nation's military. Without this continued support, we could not maintain a strong military or sustain the current effort to overcome the international terrorist threat directed at our country, our citizens, and all who love freedom.

You have my deepest thanks. Your direct contributions and support are another illustration of America's greatness as a nation.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD,
Secretary of Defense.

DEDICATED TO THE "COWBELLES"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ramona Snow, of Bakersfield, California. Ramona has been designated the Kern County "Cattlegirl of the Year" by Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlegirl Associations.

Ramona was born into a family of nine siblings and attended schools in Bakersfield until her senior year in high school when she transferred to Ventura. Shortly thereafter the family returned to Bakersfield, Ramona married Robert Snow, and began her life as a cattlegirl.

She became adept at pulling calves and doctoring ailing stock, as well as everyday ranch chores. Between raising her four children and ranch chores, Ramona found time to become active in 4-H as a sewing and cooking leader. In 1964 Ramona was asked to become a member of CowBelles, which led to a long and active career within what is now known as the Cattlegirls' Association.

Upon joining, Ramona became highly involved and chaired many committees. Such committees included, "Beef for Father's Day," and "Beef for Mother's Day." Ramona served as Vice President in 1976 and was elected President the following year. She was elected as President again in 1991.

Mrs. Snow has been an inventive member of CowBelles. She came up with the idea of a children's cookbook to be handed out at the Kern County Museum. Ramona was responsible for prize winning fair booths including the "Best Dressed Table" that promoted beef at the Kern County Fair for over 30 years. In the 1950s the CowBelles started awarding leather halters and now silver buckles to the winners of the Reserve Champion Steers at the Fair. Ramona designs these buckles each year so

they are always different. While Ramona was Vice President she introduced the idea of a Beef Cook-Off and with the help of fellow members the Cook-Off was held in Kern County that year.

Ramona's efforts have been exhaustive. Throughout her tenure as a member and officer of the Cattlegirls' Association she has been instrumental in nearly every aspect of the organization. This award is reflective of her dedication.

IWG 2-YEAR EXTENSION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with 12 of my bipartisan colleagues, including Chairmen DAVIS and HOEKSTRA and Ranking Members WAXMAN, HARMAN, and CONYERS, introduce a bill that will extend the term of the Nazi War Crimes Interagency Working Group by 2 years. This is the companion bill of S. 384, a bill introduced by Senator DEWINE and passed in the Senate today. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the history and the impact of this legislation. I would like to thank Senator DEWINE and his staff for their tireless work and for the energy they have put forth to ensure that we know as much as we can about our Government's past involvement with Nazi War criminals.

In 1998, Congress passed the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a law that was enacted to explain the relationship between the U.S. Government and former Nazis. The act required the release of all previously classified information on the topic to the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes, IWG. The documents provided thus far to the IWG have revealed that there was a closer relationship between the U.S. Government and Nazi war criminals than previously known, a revelation that is crucial to the understanding of history. This significant knowledge would not have been possible without the cooperation of many agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Until recently, the CIA had not complied with the law and did not release the documents needed to complete the IWG's task, as defined by law. Fortunately, after discussions with Senator DEWINE and myself and under the leadership of Director Porter Goss, the CIA agreed to release the requisite documents. With the term of the IWG set to expire at the end of March 2005, we are now at a critical juncture.

This bill is simple. It extends the term of the IWG so that it can complete its work, write a comprehensive report, and send it to Congress. We hope to move this quickly in the House, as they did in the Senate, to avoid a lapse in this important work. History, and the memory of the millions who perished in the Holocaust, deserve nothing less than full disclosure.

CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of a living legend here in the United States Congress and a man who is revered and respected throughout this country, my predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes.

Born February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes was educated in the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Central High School. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Army during the Second World War. After three years of service he returned to Cleveland where he attended Western Reserve University and later earned his Doctor of Laws Degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1953.

On November 6, 1968, Louis Stokes was elected to the United States Congress, becoming the first African American member of Congress from the State of Ohio. He served 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, ranking 11th overall in House seniority. Louis Stokes played a pivotal role in the quest for civil rights, equality and social and economic justice throughout his tenure in the United States Congress. He served on numerous committees throughout his tenure including the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Ethics Committee, and the House Intelligence Committee.

He was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. His resume in its entirety is too lengthy to be recorded in this resolution as it is adequately recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 80th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many who have followed in your footsteps. I thank you for your continued support and guidance throughout my career. May you have many, many more.

DEDICATED RANCHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Fred David Lavers II, of Glennville, California. Mr. Lavers is being recognized by the Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlegirls Association as the "Cattlegirl of the Year."

Born in Bakersfield, Mr. Lavers has lived on the ranch at Glennville nearly his whole life.