and women serving in Iraq and around the world. They should be commended for answering our Nation's call to duty. Their service exemplifies all that is great about our Nation: courage, honor, sacrifice, dedication, and distinction. They are preserving the democratic principles we treasure so dearly. Americans would not enjoy the many freedoms we have today had it not been for the honorable service of our U.S. veterans. We owe our troops a secure return home to a grateful Nation and a secure future.

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the Federal Government, along with State and local officials, has taken numerous steps to ensure greater security for our Nation. It is crucial that we address any security concerns that may leave our country vulnerable to another terrorist attack. But while defending our country, we must not sacrifice the civil liberties that make our land unique. We must ensure greater security for our people and also be vigilant about our individual freedoms. We must strike the right balance in meeting this challenge.

On this Fourth of July, let us work together to create an America that remains the world's strongest force for peace, justice, and freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHINA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON, and I are introducing a concurrent resolution calling upon the Bush Administration to urge the Government of China to refrain from adopting new regulations that would make it nearly impossible for U.S. software companies to sell their products to the Chinese government. The resolution also calls upon the Administration to urge China to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement, as China committed to do when it joined the WTO in 2001.

The regulations that China has proposed would require U.S. software companies to manufacture all of their products in China, register their copyrights first in China and perform at least 50 percent of their development in China. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the proposed rules is a requirement that American companies outsource a specific percentage of their work to China.

To be honest, I am amazed that China would propose these rules at a time when American companies already are facing significant impediments to doing business in China. Piracy rates of intellectual property—including software—in China remain as high as 90 percent. In addition, China continues to provide subsidies to its manufacturers, and manipulate its currency—despite calls from international institutions and governments around the world to stop this practice. These unfair trade barriers contributed to a record $162 billion trade deficit with China in 2004. That deficit is on track to top $170 billion this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Ambassador Portman, our U.S. Trade Representative, and Commerce Secretary Gutierrez are scheduled to travel to Beijing on July 11, to meet with Chinese officials at the annual U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade. I urge Ambassador Portman and Secretary Gutierrez to press upon the Chinese that the proposed software procurement rules are unacceptable. Further, it must be made clear that the U.S. Congress is growing increasingly frustrated that China is not living up to the obligations that the country agreed upon when acceding to the WTO in 2001. As a supporter of the legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to China, I am particularly disappointed by its failure to comply with its obligations.

One of the commitments China made in 2001 was to join the WTO Government Procurement Agreement "as soon as possible." Three years later, China has yet to begin the process of acceding to this agreement. Its participation in this agreement is essential, as the GPA requires countries to ensure that their procurement processes are transparent and do not unfairly discriminate between domestic and foreign companies.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

UPPER WHITE SALMON WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Upper White Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, H.R. 38, passed the House by a voice vote. I want to make clear where I stand on this issue.

The White Salmon River begins in the Cascade Mountains, fed by snowmelt from nearby Mt. Adams and the rains for which Western Washington is famous. The river makes its way south, winding through Skamania and Klickitat counties, until it meets the Columbia River in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act made much of the lower river part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program. At the same time, it directed the Forest Service to study the suitability of the upper river for designation as well. The legislation passed this week adds 20 miles of the Upper White Salmon River and Cascade Creek to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program. This portion of the river is entirely within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and outside of the Fourth District of Washington, which I represent.

While I did not oppose the legislation the House passed earlier this week, I do want to make clear that I would have considerable concerns with any proposal to declare as Wild and Scenic any currently undesignated portions of the White Salmon River that flows through the district that I represent. The views of local county commissioners, elected officials and affected landowners would be of paramount interest to me should any such designation be suggested or proposed. This portion of the river does not run through Federal land, but through private property of economic importance to the landowners and local communities. The burden of Federal regulation is already very heavy on the area, and I have great reservations about actions that would make the load even more difficult to bear.

We have an obligation to protect the natural treasures of the Columbia Gorge while also protecting the livelihoods of those that make their homes there. I look forward to continuing to work closely with my colleagues from the Northwest to make sure we strike the right balance on such matters.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD H. KING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Edward H. King who today retired from the Walgreen's Company after 27 years of distinguished service. Mr. King joined Walgreens in 1978 after serving as chief legislative assistant to the late U.S. Senator Dewey Bartlett of Oklahoma. He also served as executive director of the Northern Oklahoma Development Association from 1973 to 1975.

Mr. King received his bachelor's degree in history in 1968 from the University of Tulsa and his J.D. in 1972 from the University of Tulsa School of Law. In his current position as director of government and community relations for the Walgreen Company he helped to increase the visibility of his company throughout the community.

Mr. King could be found championing causes like the One on One mentoring and tutoring program geared toward at risk children in Chicago. Since 1989 Walgreens has contributed more than 1.3 million to that effort. Additionally, I am pleased to have worked with Mr. King and Walgreens in a curfew awareness campaign aimed at getting young people off the street and in their homes. Through the leadership of Mr. King Walgreens has been actively engaged in supporting efforts to find a cure for HIV/AIDS and promoting awareness. The work of Walgreens has not only been domestic in nature.

Recently, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. King in assisting Walgreens donation of 200,000 eyeglasses to the following countries in Africa: Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. Mr. King and the Walgreen Company understand the corporate responsibility role in giving back to improve communities in which they serve.

Mr. King is a man who has received numerous awards and honors. Perhaps the greatest reward is that found in his family and wife of 16 years Jo Ellen Thomson and his three children Aidan, Ming, and Ryland. Mr. King as you retire from Walgreens it is my hope that you will remain involved in community building—just at a different pace. Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues please join with me and the residents of the Seventh Congressional District in saluting Mr. Ed King for 27 outstanding years of service to the Walgreen Company.