

and he also served through appointment on the Oregon Investment Council from 1973 to 1986 as chairman. The Oregonian observed that unpaid public service has rarely, if ever, generated such a profound financial benefit for Oregonians.

Mr. Meier served with distinction as chairman of the board of trustees for the Portland Art Museum, and as director of Pacific Western Bank, Pac West Bancorp, NI Industries, Fred Meyer, Inc., Key Bank of Oregon, Red Lion Inns, Key Trust Company of the Northwest and The Acorn Family of Funds. Mr. Meier also gave generously of his time and talents through his service on the boards of the Catlin Gabel School, University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, the Oregon Historical Society and the Legacy Health Systems Retirement Trust.

Mr. Meier is survived by his wife, Laura, his daughters, Alix Goodman and Jill Garvey, his sons-in-law, Tom Goodman and Tony Garvey, and four grandchildren—Laura and Caroline Garvey, and Andrew and Reed Goodman. He is also survived by his nieces and their spouses, Lynn Meier Novelli and Michael Novelli, Mary Meier Ryan and Dan Ryan, and Muffie Meier; and his grand-nephews Alexander Mansfield Novelli and J. Allen Meier Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sympathy to the entire Meier family. Roger Meier was a national treasure who loved his community and his country and served them exceedingly well. He will always be missed and never be forgotten.

**A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE-LONG ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF MR. RUDOLPH BERTHOUD
AND THE LEGACY OF HIS SERVICE
AS A TUSKEGEE AIRMAN**

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today deeply honored and humbled to recognize the contributions of one of the 140 remaining Tuskegee Airmen, Mr. Rudolph Berthoud. To understand the achievements and sacrifice of Mr. Berthoud, I feel it is incumbent upon me to discuss the accomplishments of the elite group of fighters to which Mr. Rudolph Berthoud belonged.

In thinking of the Tuskegee Airmen I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who once said that if a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, "Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well." The Tuskegee Airmen were called to a task far greater, both dangerous and unprecedented. As the first black combat pilots to serve in the air force they served just as Dr. King's metaphorical street sweeper.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew and defended their country so well that their allies, as well as their opposition, knew them for their skill. One of the fighter squadrons that made up the all black 332nd fighter group was the only fighter group in World War II that never lost a fighter. The courage and commitment of the Tuskegee Airmen led to President Truman's

decree to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces less than a decade after the end of World War II.

As a Tuskegee Airman, Mr. Berthoud was an American hero in the truest sense. He fought to defeat the destructive and xenophobic powers of his day that sought to extinguish the flames of freedom and liberty. Mr. Berthoud joined this prestigious group in 1942 at the tender age of 18. He received an assignment to the 477th Medium Bomber Unit which was the first black bomber unit in the United States Air Force. After receiving an official discharge, Mr. Berthoud bravely remained in service for a total of 3 years, rising to the rank of Second Lieutenant. Upon leaving the Armed Forces, Mr. Berthoud continued with public service, returning to New York City, where he was born in 1924, to join the New York City Police Department.

Tuskegee University recently recognized Mr. Berthoud for his service as a Tuskegee Airman. On May 14, 2006, Mr. Berthoud and 11 other Tuskegee Airmen received honorary doctorates in honor of the legacy of their service and numerous achievements. Today, Mr. Berthoud is a proud member of the national and Atlanta chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Mr. Berthoud has remained a committed member of Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Riverdale, Georgia, for more than 10 years and served on many auxiliaries: the Feeding Ministry, the R.B. Newman Male Chorus, Men of Faith, and an officer for the Trustee Board.

By honoring a man who so nobly served our nation abroad, in the face of discrimination at home and doubt in his equal ability, we are turning a page in history books yet written. Mr. Berthoud remains a modest and humble man and is truly deserving of this honor. I join Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in saluting a national hero who calls the 13th Congressional District of Georgia home.

**COMMENDING THE PATRIOT
GUARD RIDERS**

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 731, commending the Patriot Guard Riders for their response to the unwelcome, disrespectful and distasteful protests occurring at the funerals of fallen servicemen across our country. America's fallen heroes deserve respect. America's fallen heroes have earned respect. I am pleased that the sanctity of their sacrifice along with the sanctity of each fallen hero's family and friends being able to mourn their loss while celebrating the life of their lost loved one in dignified burial ceremonies is being protected through the selflessness and commitment of the Patriot Guard Riders.

Since August of 2005 the Patriot Guard Riders have protected the families and friends of America's fallen soldiers from radical protesters who have sought to disrupt a sacrosanct time of mourning and ritual. Clad in leather and proudly waving the red, white, and blue, the Patriot Guard Riders impose a daunting wall to all who attempt or intend to

disrupt funeral proceedings. With a membership based solely on respect for fallen heroes, their families, and their communities, the Patriot Guard Riders have sought to rise above the jeers of protesters with the revving of motorcycle engines, thereby preserving the dignity of a military funeral.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for their loyal allegiance to the principles of integrity and to the preservation of the sanctity of service. I join my colleagues in support of the Patriot Riders and in support of House Resolution 731.

**INTRODUCTION OF AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the African Development Foundation Act of 2006.

This legislation re-authorizes the African Development Foundation (ADF) and reaffirms the great work it does in Africa for entrepreneurs, small businesses and micro/credit community programs.

For more than 20 years, the African Development Foundation has been a powerful example of both the compassion and the innovation of the American people as it has helped the poor across Africa.

The Foundation is a unique and highly effective program. It is the only United States Government agency working directly at the grassroots, supporting African-designed and African-driven solutions to economic and social problems.

The ADF enables individuals and groups to get out of poverty by putting their own ideas to work, not someone else's.

In 2005, ADF's investments across Africa created more than 110,000 jobs for poor Africans, generated \$70 million in gross revenues for enterprises, and almost 65 percent of micro and small entrepreneurs assisted by ADF were women.

ADF is demonstrating that African entrepreneurs and farmers can compete in the global marketplace. It is helping them improve quality to meet international standards and to increase quantity to meet demand.

ADF-assisted groups had \$35 million in export sales in 2005. For example thousands of poor, small farmers in Uganda have been taught how to grow vanilla. Moreover, they are getting significant value-added by curing and grading it for the international market, where it competes favorably with Madagascar and other producers.

In Tanzania, ADF is helping several thousand small sugar cane producers improve their income. Mtibwa Sugar has increased its gross export revenues by 423 percent over the past 3 years, from US\$1.188 million during FY 2002 to US\$5.034 million in FY 2005. In the Ruembe Outgrowers Association, sugar cane yields per hectare are up 30 percent and cumulative export sales stand at US\$4.7 million.

The number of participating cane farmers has increased by 50 percent since project inception and the income of the 1,440 growers has almost doubled as a consequence of ADF's investment.

The Foundation's community enterprise investments are supporting grassroots solutions to local problems and empowering communities to take control of their own development.

For example, over the past several years, ADF has empowered rural communities in Guinea to plan and undertake the construction of scores of health clinics, primary schools and wells.

In Jigawa State, in northern Nigeria, ADF supported community construction of 400 low cost homes for families who had lost their traditional structures in floods.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally impressed and inspired by the African Development Foundation's work with those living with HIV/AIDS.

For example:

In Swaziland, where almost 40 percent of adults are infected with the AIDS virus, ADF is improving nutrition and providing income-generating opportunities for widows and orphans affected by helping them produce and market vegetables.

In Ghana, ADF funded the training of almost 1,500 youth who conducted peer counseling on HIV/AIDS to more than 200,000 young people.

In Plateau State, Nigeria, ADF funded a pilot program to adapt and extend a faith-based life skills training program in the public secondary schools. About 500 teachers were trained in the new curriculum and more than 25,000 students received year-long training.

In Tanzania, ADF has experimented with supporting schemes that extend micro-credit to people living with HIV/AIDS and enabling them to start informal businesses and undertake income-generating activities.

Mr. Speaker, there is a very high demand for the African Development Foundation to expand their work. A dozen African governments and two private corporations are actually matching the U.S. Government's funding, dollar-for-dollar, for ADF to undertake projects in their countries. Demand for its services greatly exceeds resources. Currently, ADF has a total of \$22.0 million in annual cash commitments and specific requests.

Newly elected President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has requested USADF to help in rebuilding Liberia and restoring hope through creating small businesses and community enterprises that can provide meaningful jobs to ex-combatants, women and youth.

Additionally, the Governments of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have also requested USADF to assist in their post-crisis transition and development. Also, the Government of Burkina Faso has requested ADF assistance in community and enterprise development and is committed to matching USG funding with funds from the Islamic Development Bank.

Mr. Speaker, the work of the African Development Foundation is a powerful example of the goodwill of the American people, and it is one of the most effective foreign assistance programs we have.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting their efforts and co-sponsor the African Development Foundation Act of 2006.

THE DEFICIT REDUCTION AND EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT OF 2006

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to introduce the Deficit Reduction and Effective Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006. The United States is facing structural deficits of \$300 billion to \$400 billion; a rising mountain of debt, held increasingly by foreign interests; and a \$3 trillion tax-cut agenda of measures yet to be renewed or enacted. We have all of this and more, but no effective tools to deal with any of these problems. In fact, this year, for the fourth time since the Budget Act was passed, and for the third time in the last 5 years, Congress has failed to pass a concurrent budget resolution, much less a 5-year plan.

That's why today I am introducing this bill. It contains a package of tools to get the budget crisis under control and help get the budget back in balance.

My legislation reinstates the two-sided Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rules. It allows reconciliation to be used only to reduce the deficit. My bill provides members with the information they need to review legislation before voting on it. Finally, a well-crafted expedited rescission authority could be a useful budget tool—and I have brought to the floor and voted for versions of that authority in the past when there were other budget enforcement tools in place, as well. That's why my bill includes expedited rescission authority, but addresses the broader budget control issues as well.

Let me review some of the details of my bill. If we are in earnest about bringing down the deficit, we need rules designed to reduce the deficit. Congress created the reconciliation process to make it easier to reduce the deficit by setting up special procedures for hard-to-pass budget cuts, yet this Congress now uses reconciliation to pass legislation that enlarges the deficit. The Republican bill granting the president expedited rescission authority, H.R. 4890, could become an accessory to that outcome. A President with expedited rescission powers could push a big spending bill, call members of Congress when a vote was coming up, solicit their support, and if it was not forthcoming, back up his request with a thinly veiled threat—the rescission of something that members dearly wanted for their districts.

My bill addresses these concerns in several ways. First, it prohibits reconciliation procedures from being used to increase the deficit. Second, it prohibits the President or anyone in the executive branch from wielding rescission threats as a bargaining tool on other legislation.

If we are serious about rooting out wasteful spending—and I think we should be—we need to provide members with adequate time to look over legislation before voting on it. The Republican Rules Committee routinely waives

the rules to rush bills to the floor hours or even minutes after bills providing for billions of dollars are finalized. My bill requires that members have copies of a bill to review at least 24 hours prior to a vote, and a full three days for a bill with earmarks, unless two-thirds of the House votes to waive that rule. In addition, my bill contains earmark reform provisions from H. Res. 659, Representative OBEY's bill, that will make publicly available relevant details about any earmarks contained in a bill, including who sponsored the provision and who benefits from it.

I am convinced that we can reduce the deficit while protecting vital entitlement programs from expedited rescission authority and the sort of summary changes that fast-track provisions would permit. H.R. 4890 allows the President to propose line-item rescissions even to entitlement programs such as Social Security, veterans' benefits, and Medicare. My bill would protect these programs.

The Deficit Reduction and Effective Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006 will put in place these measures we need to address our budget crisis. Merely granting the President expedited rescission authority alone, as H.R. 4890 provides, will do little to require that Congress set budget priorities, put the budget on the path back to balance, and stick to its budget promises.

VOTING RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed by the Republican leadership's decision to pull this important bipartisan legislation from Floor debate this week. The Voting Rights Act has made a significant difference in ensuring the full inclusion of minorities in the American political process. The legislation pulled today will extend for 25 years key provisions that are set to expire in 2007. While this country has a rich history of valuing the right to vote, it, unfortunately, has a checkered past in ensuring the full access that the Constitution guarantees.

The Voting Rights Act was signed into law 5 months after voting rights protesters were beaten as they walked from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." Earlier this week, I held a forum on the need to extend the Voting Rights Act. I heard personal stories from my colleagues in Congress and members of the civil rights community that illustrate the need to extend this legislation. I commend Congressmen JOHN CONYERS, MEL WATT and other members of the Judiciary Committee for their hard work on this bill. I hope that the Republican Leadership can resolve its issues with this landmark legislation and bring it to the House floor as soon as possible.