

to reflect the same spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Radnor Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE WEST HAVEN
BLACK COALITION AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, in so many communities across this nation, civic organizations have been founded in an effort to advance the local African-American community. For the last twenty years, the City of West Haven, Connecticut has been home to the West Haven Black Coalition—an organization that has not only helped to promote African-American involvement in the community, but has also worked diligently to improve the community and quality of life for all West Haven residents.

We begin each year celebrating the life and lessons of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King followed by the celebration of Black History Month. It could not be more fitting that the West Haven Black Coalition's anniversary coincides with these festivities. In the last two decades, under the leadership of founder and president Carroll Brown, the West Haven Black Coalition has gone a long way in bringing life to the legacy of Dr. King and addressing social, political, and economic issues through active participation in the government and community. Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you going to do for others." Dr. King devoted his life—indeed gave his life—to working for others. Despite our best intentions, it is not always easy to find the time for community service. With so much going on in our daily lives it can be a challenge which is why I have a deep admiration for those among us who take the time to give something back and to share our talents with others. For 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has done just that.

It was not so long ago that minorities faced seemingly overwhelming obstacles to justice and equality. While our nation has taken great strides, there is still work to be done—this has become the mission of the West Haven Black Coalition. Actively encouraging African-Americans to not only run for public office but serve in city government, developing and implementing community enrichment projects throughout the city, and making opportunity real for our students by providing college scholarships—these are just some of the ways that the West Haven Black Coalition has made a difference.

Perhaps more important than the physical impact the West Haven Black Coalition has had on our community is the inspiring message that their good work has passed on to a new generation. Your participation, your service—in school, in government, or in the community—gives you a strong voice and empowers you to make a difference. In its first 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has left

an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that they will continue to have a positive impact on the city for many years to come. That is why I am pleased to stand today to join the many who have gathered to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carroll Brown and the West Haven Black Coalition for their invaluable contributions. My sincere and heart-felt congratulations as they celebrate this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DIMITRI
MUSCAT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Aurora, Colorado, Sergeant Dimitri Muscat. Sergeant Muscat died on February 24 in Balad, Iraq. He was just 21 years old.

Sergeant Muscat was born in Russia and came to Colorado when he was only 12 years old. According to his stepfather, serving in the Army to defend America was something Dimitri had wanted to do since he was young—and he joined the Army at 17. Dimitri was serving as a gunner on his unit's tank when he died.

Dimitri is survived by his mother, stepfather and his sister.

Sergeant Muscat was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was in his second tour in Iraq when he died.

Dimitri served his adopted country with courage and valor, fighting for the cause of freedom.

The American and Iraqi people owe Dimitri and his family a great debt of gratitude for his service and his sacrifice.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to all who knew and loved Dimitri.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARINES OF
BULK FUEL COMPANY BRAVO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the five returning Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo, based in Wilmington, Delaware. During the past seven months, the five Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo answered the call to duty in a highly volatile and dangerous region of Iraq. Their efforts contributed to the safety and security of an emerging democracy and our own great nation. With this sacrifice they have inspired others—including their family, friends, and neighbors.

As Americans, we are mindful of what we have lost, but we are deeply grateful for all that cannot be destroyed. It is Marines like those of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo who sustain and invigorate the timeless values, principles, and extraordinary character that define our great nation.

Today, I am just one of many Delawareans who would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to them for their service and sacrifice on our behalf. When they were needed, they answered their country's call, proving once again that extraordinary individuals live within each generation of Americans.

THE "PORT OPERATIONS REQUIRE
TOUGH SCRUTINY" (PORTS) ACT
STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Port Operations Require Tough Scrutiny (PORTS) Act to ensure that decisions about the sale of critical U.S. infrastructure such as ports are thoroughly reviewed so that the homeland security consequences of these transactions are not brushed aside in favor of commercial interests.

The Bush Administration's recent decision to approve the sale of British port operator Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation to Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has raised significant homeland security concerns. This decision also has shined a light on a little-known committee at the Treasury Department and the secretive process it uses to make decisions that can have important consequences for the security of our Nation.

Clearly, the UAE port deal did not receive the scrutiny it deserved. The 9/11 Commission identified the government of the UAE—the same entity that would operate major functions at 6 U.S. ports—as a "persistent counterterrorism problem". Two of the 9/11 hijackers were from the UAE. The 9/11 Commission concluded that the UAE banking system was used as a conduit for funds for the September 11th attacks. The UAE was a key transfer point for illegal shipments of nuclear components to Iran, North Korea and Libya. The UAE was one of only three nations to recognize the legitimacy of the Taliban government and still does not recognize the State of Israel.

Despite all of these warning signs, the proposed port deal did not even trigger a 45-day investigation, which is provided in current law and should have been interpreted as being mandatory when foreign governments—whether involving the UAE, the UK, the Ukraine or any other nation—seek mergers, acquisitions or similar transactions that could affect U.S. national security. Nevertheless, when asked about the UAE port deal last week, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said, "I am reluctant to make judgments based on the minimal amount of information I have because I just heard about this over the weekend." (Defense Department news briefing, 2/21/06).

It is unacceptable that President Bush, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Treasury were not informed of the UAE port deal until after it was approved and had caused widespread public outrage. President Bush has repeatedly told the American people that 9/11 changed his thinking, and extraordinary measures, such as warrantless wiretapping of

American citizens, are required to keep America safe. How, then, could the Bush Administration have overlooked such an obvious homeland security threat?

My legislation would strengthen the process for assessing the national security impact of foreign ownership of critical U.S. infrastructure. Specifically, the legislation would:

Limit Takeovers of Critical Homeland Infrastructure. In cases where the purchaser is a government-owned company based in a foreign country, the transaction must be approved not only by CFIUS, but also by the President and be subject to congressional review.

If the purchaser is a foreign company, but not government-controlled, the transaction must undergo a 45-day investigation and be found to not undermine national security before it can be approved.

Increase the 30-day Evaluation Period. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), "Several officials [participating in the CFIUS process] commented that, in complex cases, it is difficult to complete analyses . . . within 23 days." CFIUS's guidance requires member agencies to determine if they are likely to object to the transaction by the 23rd day of the 30-day review period. The legislation would double this initial evaluation period to 60 days and permit any participant to be granted an automatic 10-day extension, separate from CFIUS's 45-day investigatory period.

Require Reports to Congress. According to Treasury Department regulations, CFIUS reviews of any proposed transactions are confidential, and there is no congressional oversight of CFIUS decisions. The legislation would require CFIUS to report annually to Congress on the number of notifications it received during the year and the action taken after each notification.

As security experts and the 9/11 Commission have pointed out, our ports are a vulnerable entry point that could be exploited by terrorists to strike our country. Almost none of the cargo that enters U.S. ports is ever inspected. While the federal government is ultimately responsible for security at ports, much of the day-to-day security responsibilities, such as hiring security guards and ensuring adequate access controls and fencing are in place, are delegated to the companies that operate at the port. The port operator also has access to real-time sensitive intelligence of the continuous movement of ships, their cargoes and the millions of containers they are stored in; the identity of their shippers and inside knowledge about the security in place at the ports.

While oversight of these private operators is the responsibility of the Department of Security, the Bush Administration is nickel and diming our port security by proposing a budget that eliminates millions in port security grants. This is a wrong-headed decision that only leaves our country vulnerable to a devastating attack, such as a nuclear weapon or dirty bomb being detonated in our country.

We know that terrorists are seeking to use U.S. ports as a route to launch a devastating nuclear attack on U.S. soil—one of the millennium bombers entered the United States through the Port of Boston in an attempt to bomb buildings on the West Coast. Cargo containers represent a cheap, deadly method for delivering bombs on U.S. soil—we cannot

afford to be lax in our oversight of the shipping and handling of these containers. This Administration's scrutiny of this UAE deal is just like their treatment of tons of cargos at our door: insufficient, incomplete and incomprehensible, given the security threats we face."

As the DP World decision illustrates, the CFIUS process urgently needs to be overhauled. I urge consideration of this legislation so that we can increase the scrutiny of transactions that could create serious homeland security risks. Commerce must not be permitted to trump common sense.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAY BARRETTO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sympathy that I rise today to say goodbye to a Latin Jazz legend and a wonderful man. Mr. Ray Barretto passed away on Friday, February 17, 2006 at the age of 76. Ray was the first Hispanic to record a Latin song which became a "hit" on the American Billboard Charts. Although he has gone, his musical influence will live on for generations to come. Surely that is a mark of a great life.

Like many Puerto Ricans, Ray's parents moved to New York in the early 1920's in search of a better life. Raised in Spanish Harlem, he was deeply influenced by his mother's love of music and by the jazz music of musicians such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie. In 1946 at the age of 17, he joined the Army and was stationed in Germany where he met Belgian musician Fats Sadi. However, it was not until he heard "Manteca" recorded by Dizzy Gillespie and Cuban percussionist, Chano Pozo, that he realized music was his true calling in life.

After returning to New York in 1949, Ray began to visit clubs where he participated in jam sessions and perfected his conga playing. It wasn't long before the likes of Charlie Parker, Jose Curbelo and Tito Puente began to ask him to play with their bands. Ray opened the door for other Latin percussionists to appear in jazz groups, creating a sound unlike any other.

Over the years Ray achieved international superstardom and released nearly 2 dozen albums with the Fania label from the late-60s until salsa's popularity peaked in the mid 1980's. In 1975 he was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song "Barretto," and in 1990, he finally won a Grammy for the album "Ritmo en el Corazón" (Rhythm in the Heart), which featured the vocals of the late great Celia Cruz. In 1999, Ray was inducted into the International Latin Music Hall of Fame and in January 2006 he was named one of the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz Masters of 2006, the Nation's highest jazz honor.

Mr. Speaker, Ray's fusing of Afro-Caribbean rhythms with jazz created a whole new genre of music that has not only entertained us but also helped to unite people from diverse backgrounds in a common love for the sound. The bonds that he worked to create over the years are, as one of his most popular tunes is entitled, "Indestructible." I thank him for having the courage to ask, "why not," when others asked "why."

For his masterful play and his genuine creativity I ask that my colleagues join me in giving a final farewell to the Godfather of Latin Jazz, Mr. Ray Barretto.

HONORING THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF ROBERT EASTERBROOK

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert Easterbrook for his contributions to wildlife conservation and protecting the freedom to hunt.

As a member of the Safari Club for over 20 years and as founding member of the Detroit Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), Robert's passion for conservation education has been an invaluable resource to the state of Michigan. Mr. Easterbrook's nature study outdoor center and camp hosts over 4,200 underprivileged children every year. His work with troubled teenagers has been credited with changing many of their lives for the better. He also founded the "Great Lakes Bowfishing Championship," a fundraising event benefiting the children's camp that has been recognized as one of the largest of its kind.

Robert is also well-known for his commitment and dedication to sportsmen's issues. He has been honored by both the Michigan House and Senate for his input on bipartisan legislation. His Sportsmen Against Hunger program encourages hunters to donate their meat to the hungry and has been adopted by 4 other states.

Over the past 30 years Robert Easterbrook has been awarded Special Conservationist of the Year Award by the Michigan United Conservation Club, the Ted Nugent World Bowhunters Lifetime Representative Award and the Outstanding SCI member, among other awards. He has also served on various committees dedicated to conservation efforts, including the World Wildlife Foundation, the American Archery Council and the Michigan Involvement Committee.

Mr. Easterbrook's many accomplishments serve as a lasting example of excellence in conservationism. Michigan has been well-served by Robert Easterbrook. The residents of Michigan will appreciate Mr. Easterbrook's work to protect our great state for generations to come.

I would like to thank Robert for his dedicated service both to Safari Club International and to the State of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFIDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude to the YWCA USA and acclaimed performer Queen Latifah for their joint efforts to create National Women's Confidence Day this Spring. This day will help raise public awareness and celebrate the positive impact