

weeks of rest and recuperation, and I am proud to share that the "Welcome Home a Hero" program at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport has been selected by the U.S. Military to host this celebration. I extend my personal gratitude to the program's volunteers for their efforts in supporting our dedicated men and women in uniform who are proudly serving our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am indeed honored to pause and pay tribute to these wonderful volunteers and valiant soldiers who represent the very best of the United States of America.

THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group (ISG)—also known as the "Baker Hamilton Commission"—as a bipartisan foundation for long overdue strategic change in our policy in Iraq.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues Representatives FRANK WOLF, MICHAEL McCaul, and DANIEL LIPINSKI—and 41 other Members—in introducing this bill, and I am grateful for all their help in building support for this legislation. Representative WOLF deserves special recognition for the role he played in spearheading the creation of the Iraq Study Group and in pushing forward its recommendations.

The ISG was created in March 2006 at the request of a bipartisan group of Members of Congress, led by Representative WOLF, and was co-chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker and former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Lee Hamilton. In December 2006, the ISG released its recommendations and outlined a bipartisan approach to bringing a responsible conclusion to the Iraq war.

What this legislation does is to take these recommendations and establish them as official United States policy. Among the recommendations outlined in the bill are a new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group; giving the highest priority to training, equipping and advising the Iraqi military and security forces; assessing the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military; accelerating and increasing oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq; implementing and oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction; ensuring that the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request; and setting conditions that can lead to redeployment of U.S. combat forces as early as the first quarter of 2008, including necessary diplomatic, infrastructure and security benchmarks.

It is clear to me that a Democratic majority in Congress cannot unilaterally legislate an end to this war and expect its architect and champion—President Bush—to sign on the

dotted line. In my view, the only way to end this war—and to end it in a way that minimizes the likelihood of greater regional bloodshed—is to broaden the tent of opposition, and engage concerned Republicans in pressuring the Bush Administration to change course. That is why I worked last year with Representative Joe Schwarz on a resolution insisting on benchmarks for Iraqi political stability and a process to hold the Bush Administration accountable.

That is why I am introducing this bill today. Democrats and Republicans must work together to change the course in Iraq, and implementing the major policy recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group is an overdue step in this direction.

As an early and consistent opponent of this war I do not believe that embracing these recommendations is the only action we in Congress must take, but it is important as a foundation. I, for one, will also continue to push for a strategy of military disengagement in Iraq and phased redeployment of our forces, because I do not believe we should ask our soldiers to referee a civil war.

Ending American military participation in this war and managing the consequences of the Bush Administration's failures will not be easy and it will not come overnight, but it will come—and the ISG recommendations offer a means of moving toward these goals.

Many of us embraced the ISG's recommendations when the report was first released last year, and many of us believe that the report still provides a comprehensive blueprint for a way forward in Iraq and the Middle East, from both the military and the diplomatic perspective.

I do not believe the ISG recommendations or my bill will offer a complete solution, but they will offer a start.

We went into war as a badly divided country; I hope we can end it differently and that is my motivation in offering this bill today.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2007 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions. Since the organization's founding in 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and de-

mocracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Victor Phillip Dahdaleh, Chairman, Dadco. Mr. Dahdaleh is Canadian.

And for the first time in its history, NECO presented a Global Humanitarian Award to H. E. Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little or no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

I, once again, commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. As Rosemarie Taglione, Executive Director of NECO has said so eloquently on a number of occasions: "NECO's message of tolerance and harmony among diverse ethnic groups is, perhaps, even more important today than it was 20 years ago."

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2007 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement:

Dr. Gregory Adamian, H. E. Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, George Altirs, Peter Arnell, Dr. Elias Ayoub, Dr. Ernest M. Barsamian, Michelle Bodden, Edgar Cahn, Leo Chen, Dr. Aram V. Chobanian, Jaekun Chung, Mario Ciano, Denis A. Cortese, MD, Hon. Leslie Crocker-Snyder, Victor Phillip Dahdaleh, Nicholas J. Daniello, MD, Dr. Joel Alan DeLisa, Kirti Desai, Dr. Akshay Desai, Michael J. Dowling, James J. Dowling, Blaise Durante, Hon. Jacob Eapen, MD, MPH, Mory Ejabat, Richard A. Elias, MD, Hani Findakly, PhD, Arthur Flegel, Jon Fortgang, Douglas Foshee, Philip Friedman, Cynthia R. Garrett, Obren Gerich, Joi Gordon, Col. R. L. Grabowski, USMC, MSGT Nicholas G. Grand, USAF (Ret.), Patrick Grant, Hon. Chuck Hagel, George Hamilton, William Harrington, Esq., Richard Heckmann, Col. Jack H. Jacobs, USA (Ret.), Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, Ik Joong Kang, Dr. Sarkis Kechejian, Don Keenan, Do-Young Kim, David E. Kimmel, Jr., Dr. Steven S. Koh, George J. Kostas, Les Kuczynski,

Joan Kuyper-Farver, Irene Ladas, LTC. Larry H. Lang, USAF, Rep. Tom Lantos, Dr. Edwin Pak-Wah Leung, Dr. John M. Levinson, Hon. Guillermo Linares, Harvey Mackay, Patrick J. Martucci, Thomas Mattia, CPT. Gary A. Maynard, USN, Mitchell Modell, Hon. Samuel Mok, Todd Morgan, C. Warren Moses, Dr. Vance Moss, Dr. Vince Moss, Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani, Maureen Murphy, Fereydown Nazem, Hon. Liet Nguyen, Col. Tracey E. Nicholson, USA, Fr. Michael O'Connell, Dr. Kiran C. Patel, Antonio M. Perez, Asst. Chief Diana L. Pizzuti, L. Rafael Reif, PhD, RADM Stephen W. Rochon, USCG, James Rogers, Michael Rogers, Hon. Carlos A. Romero-Barcelo, Ali A. Saberioon, Carlos A. Saladrigas, Dominick M. Servedio, Smita N. Shah, Donald Soffer, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, Toomas M. Sorra, MD, Debra Brown Steinberg, Esq., Daniel J. Sullivan, Daniel J. Thomas, DDS, Gerald Turpanjian, Luis A. Valentin, Tai Nin Wang, Richard J. Wolff, Mahvash Yazdi, Dr. Gazi Zibari, Mira Zivkovich.

HONORING BILL FRANCE JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to William Clifton "Bill" France, who passed away Monday, June 4, 2007, at his home in Daytona Beach, Florida. It was my honor to have known and worked with Bill France over the past years. Known by friends as "Bill Jr.," he was a legend in American motorsports.

The son of NASCAR's founder, he was born in Washington, DC on April 4th, 1933. His family moved to Daytona Beach in 1934 where his father, William France, Sr., began establishing the world's most famous racing circuit and a national sports phenomenon.

Bill Jr. graduated from Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach in 1951 where he played on the basketball team. He attended the University of Florida and served in the United States Navy from 1953 to 1955.

After his service in the Navy, Bill Jr. found the love of his life, Ms. Betty Jane Zachary, who became the mother of his two children, Brian France and Lesa Kennedy. Both of his children and his wife were instrumental in the success of what is now "the most watched American sport," NASCAR.

Bill Jr. did not begin his journey as CEO. He started working his way up the ranks holding positions as a flagman, concierge, race scorer and other jobs. In 1959, he even drove a bulldozer and a grater during the construction of the Daytona International Speedway before becoming Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

With the passing of Bill France, American motorsports has lost a great leader, our country and State have lost an outstanding citizen and I have lost a wonderful friend. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community, a respected businessman, a compassionate husband and a loving father. To his wife Betty Jane, his son Brian, his daughter Lesa France Kennedy, his brother James, his three grandchildren and the all of the France family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Bill France's contributions and ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me in remembering a great American.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALLY BAILEY FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wally Bailey, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and his group's recent visit to Capitol Hill during this year's annual recognition of Building Safety Week. On May 9, Mr. Bailey led a delegation of members of the International Code Council to meet with Congress to discuss nationally focused concerns in building safety and fire prevention. This year ICC's delegation focused specifically on a proposal to create a Community Building Code Administration Grant Program, and Mr. Bailey spoke to me persuasively of how this program would expand and support the quality and effectiveness of building code and fire code administration in underserved areas of our country.

Mr. Bailey serves as President of the Board of Directors of the International Code Council, a volunteer role to which he was elected in national leadership of a membership association of over 42,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals. It is this group that develops the building and fire codes that are in use all across our country for the construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the businesses, schools, and places of worship we visit regularly. These codes, created and maintained through a voluntary consensus development process, are in use by over 22,000 U.S. jurisdictions, including those who govern the quality, safety and energy efficiency of building construction at the local, State and Federal levels.

For the past three decades, Mr. Bailey has been a tireless advocate for building safety through superior building codes and effective building code administration. As the Director of Development and Construction for the City of Fort Smith, he supervises activities of a multi-disciplined department that governs codes administration, inspections, plan review, property maintenance, historic preservation and land development. As a matter of note, 2 years ago he celebrated a quarter century of service to the City. Since 1999, in addition to his work with the City of Fort Smith, Mr. Bailey has served in leadership positions with the ICC, culminating in his present role as President of the Board. Besides his being a distinguished citizen of my District, in my opinion, ICC's membership elected a leader who is an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2007, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board

Vice President Steven Shapiro, Board Secretary/Treasurer Adolph Zubia, Immediate Past President of the Board Henry Green; Board members Gregori Anderson, Edwin Berkel, James Brothers, John Darnall, William Dupler, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn, Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

IN HONOR OF THE WELCOME HOME A HERO PROGRAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Welcome Home a Hero program at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Every day, more than a hundred troops come through DFW on their way home from Iraq and Afghanistan for Rest and Recuperation. Since Welcome Home a Hero's inception in 2004, coordinated volunteers have gathered at the airport each day to greet our brave men and women serving our country and to make sure they receive the warm homecoming they have earned.

Welcome Home a Hero is a result of the dedication of the North Texas Commission, the employees at DFW International Airport, the USO, the Boy Scouts of America, local businesses and thousands of volunteers. This program is one of the largest and most effective community initiatives in north Texas, and its positive impact on the morale of our troops has not gone unnoticed.

As the 500,000th soldier arrives at DFW International Airport this month and the program approaches its 3-year anniversary, I want to thank all involved in this valuable effort. The dedicated and selfless participants of this valuable program are what make our country great.

The North Texas Commission, DFW Airport employees, the USO and all of the volunteers should be proud of their leadership and accomplishments. I am extremely grateful for their dedication to our troops and our country, and I applaud the people of north Texas for taking the initiative to create this program.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL METTS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Mr. Michael Metts, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-