

and SARS. What are the policies and procedures to implement a quarantine/isolation, and what is the role of DHS?

We must ensure that we provide public health security policies and guidelines that result in the highest level of precautions against public health threats. There is an old saying that it is better safe than sorry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 539. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on agreeing to the Musgrave of Colorado amendment.

TRIBUTE TO RICK SPARROW

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I come before you to honor Rick Sparrow for his decades of service to the 15th District of Illinois. Next fall will be the first time in over 30 years that Rick will not grace the basketball courts of East-Central Illinois. While the residents of Fisher, Illinois will always remember him as “Coach Sparrow,” Rick actually began his basketball career as a youth referee. Due to his love of the game of basketball and his commitment to the children of Fisher, Rick spent nearly 12 years as an official, refereeing hundreds of games. Even with the demands of his job as a manager with FritoLay and responsibilities as a loving husband, father and grandfather, Rick then decided to make the move to the sidelines as a youth coach where he remained for the past 18 years.

Coach Sparrow will be remembered for his dedication, loyalty, passion and friendship. While he always pushed his players to the limit on the basketball court, he did so with respect, warmth and kindness. Rick treated every player as if he was his own child, and kept strong ties with his former players long after their playing careers were over. In fact, four of his twelve current warehouse employees at FritoLay are former Fisher Bunnies.

Rick's unheralded success as both an assistant and head coach is undoubtedly a product of the relationships he formed with each player he coached. In 1996, Coach Sparrow was named the IHSA Junior High District Coach of the year. In the 90's, he coached his junior high teams to six consecutive IESA state tournaments. And just this last year, Rick was a member of the coaching staff that led St. Joseph-Ogden High School to the super-sectional finals of the Illinois High School Association basketball tournament.

Now that the Coach has graced the sidelines for the last time, there will be more time to enjoy time and activities with his beloved wife, children and grandchildren. While he may not be in the gym next fall, the impact he has made on the Fisher community will continue for years to come.

Coach, the 15th District thanks you for your 30 years of service and your commitment to our community's student-athletes. You have enriched the lives of your players and their families.

IN HONOR OF RUBEN RAMOS, JR.

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor Hoboken City Councilman-at-Large Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week 2007. Ramos, Jr., who was born and raised in Hoboken, is the first Puerto Rican from Hoboken to be nominated to the New Jersey State Assembly.

At age 25, Ramos, Jr. became the youngest councilman to be elected in the City of Hoboken in 1999, representing the 4th Ward. That same year, Ramos, Jr. was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. A proven fighter, Ramos, Jr. underwent rigorous chemotherapy treatment and was declared cancer free a year later, going on to become one of the most outstanding Hoboken citizens of Puerto Rican heritage.

Two years later, in 2001, Ramos, Jr. ran successfully for Councilman-at-Large, and became the youngest City Council President in the history of Hoboken. He was re-elected to the City Council in 2005.

During his 8 years serving on the Hoboken City Council, Ruben Ramos, Jr. has been able to work effectively with its members to bring effective development to the city and the waterfront. Ramos, Jr. took action to create more open space while expanding much needed residential parking spaces. Councilman Ramos, Jr. also helped clean up the Housing Authority and created the town's summer employment for teenagers program in city departments.

In the national arena, Ramos, Jr. was selected by Al Gore's 2000 election committee to serve on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he delivered a stirring keynote speech. Ramos, Jr. was also chosen by the Democratic National Committee to serve on their credentials committee during the presidential campaign.

Councilman Ruben Ramos, Jr. is a graduate of Farleigh Dickinson University and has taught Social Studies to sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students for the last 10 years. Aware of their needs and hoping to shape the lives of young residents in the area, Ramos, Jr. has volunteered with the Hoboken Boy's and Girl's Club.

Please join me in honoring Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week and congratulating his wife Norma, his two beautiful daughters, and the Puerto Rican family members who helped shape the outstanding life of this young elected official that has become a role model for his fellow citizens.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey-Wolf amendment, which would prohibit funds in this bill from being used to designate any area as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC).

By providing a 1-year time out in the designation of NIETCs, the amendment will force the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Congress, States and the public to reexamine the process for designating these areas to ensure that States' rights are upheld and people's personal property rights are protected.

Specifically, this amendment will postpone a flawed plan by the Department of Energy to designate two vast swaths of the country as NIETCs. Far from narrow “corridors,” these massive areas encompass 214 counties and 9 cities in 11 states, including large areas in my home State of New York.

The way these areas have been designated has come under intense scrutiny, and for good reason. In a hearing in the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy earlier this year, it was made clear that the DOE did not adequately consult with the States on this issue and that the designations would actually hinder the States' efforts to address climate change. In addition, the congestion study which the proposed corridor designations are based on was fundamentally flawed. Last, the DOE simply failed to consider the appropriate alternatives to corridor designation.

At that hearing Paul D. Tonko, Chairman, Committee on Energy, New York State Assembly said, “There is little confidence, at this moment, that federal government officials—who are far removed from the physical and socio-economic location of local proposals—will be able to fully appreciate the environmental, economic and social impacts of long-range, high-voltage transmission lines in local communities.”

I also want to note that Governor Eliot Spitzer of New York strongly supports the Hinchey amendment. He has made clear that the NIETC designation in New York is not only unnecessary, it would actually be counter-productive because if it is finalized, the FERC would be able to preempt parts of New York's long-established and efficient process for siting transmission lines.

Most appallingly, if we do not pass the Hinchey amendment, the FERC could eventually have the ability to give energy companies the power of Federal eminent domain to force private landowners to sell parts of their property. We just cannot allow States' rights to be trampled and private property rights to be taken away.

Yes, we absolutely need to make sure that there is an efficient process in place to meet the critical energy needs of my constituents in New York City and in other large urban areas. However, that process must also be fair. It must protect the rights of private property owners, take into account environmental and historic preservation concerns, and not unnecessarily usurp States' rights. That's why I will cast my vote in favor of the Hinchey amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 540. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the Pence of Indiana amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT
CORY ENDLICH

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise to pay tribute and recognize a dedicated soldier and citizen from my district. On Saturday, June 9, 2007, Army Sergeant Cory Endlich lost his life during hostile fire while patrolling an area northwest of Baghdad.

A 2003 graduate of Massillon Washington High School, Sergeant Endlich was a 4-year member of the Massillon Tiger Swing Band as well as a 2-year member of the cross country team. While many of his friends dreamed about becoming professional athletes, he dreamed of becoming a paratrooper for the United States Army. He was also a devoted citizen, helping in missions at home, including the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina before his deployment to Iraq.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. He had requested in his last letter to his mother for her to send coloring books, crayons and hard candy for Iraqi children he had befriended. Sergeant Endlich is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Army Sergeant Endlich and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday, this body debated the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the upcoming fiscal year. During debate, I offered an amendment which would have added \$192 million for the purpose of supporting and diversifying the core mission of our Nation's laboratories. Although my amendment did not pass, I remain strongly committed to the idea that a diversification of the mission of our labs is essential and must take place now if we are going to continue to face—and solve—the major national security challenges of the future.

The debate of the amendment brought up several misconceptions and misunderstandings, and I want to take this time to reiterate the purpose and substance of the amendment.

First, some said that my amendment would increase "funding for new nuclear weapon development." This is simply not true. My amendment would return spending approximately to current levels—thereby not providing for the funding of new weapons. As I stated in my previous remarks, my amendment would target funding for three programs, all of which support securing and maintaining our Nation's existing weapons and the core mission of the laboratory. In fact, two of the three programs—the Road Runner Supercomputer and the Science Campaign—help ensure our current weapons supply remains safe, reliable and accurate through computer simulations of weapons in the place of real weapons testing. In the past, I have expressed great concern with the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, and I continue to believe that numerous important questions regarding this proposal need to be answered before it proceeds. I doubt our need for a new weapon.

Second, some said that my amendment could "terminate most of the Nation's nonproliferation programs" and that opposing the amendment would "stop terrorists from acquiring nuclear materials." This is also not true. According to the committee report, \$75 million of the Office of the NNSA Administrator is set aside for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program. My amendment would have set total funding for the Office of the NNSA Administrator at \$215 million, more than enough to continue to fund the nonproliferation program. Further, my amendment did not in any way stipulate that the funding would come from the nonproliferation program. It should be noted that current funding for the Office is \$340 million. Clearly the \$415 million provided in this bill is a substantial increase for all programs. Even if my amendment had been adopted, the agency still could have completed these important tasks.

Third, some said that my amendment indicated that "jobs in New Mexico are more important than the overall national management of these sensitive national security programs." Certainly representing the constituency needs of the Third Congressional District of New Mexico is my primary concern. And, yes, those who would lose their jobs under this bill—technical, academic and support jobs in which many have spent decades—are worried. But let me be absolutely clear about this: Neither I nor a single member of the Los Al-

amos community would for a moment rather protect these jobs than protect the safety and defense of our national security programs. The men and women who work at Los Alamos take great pride in their mission and service to our Nation. They understand the unique undertaking of the lab, and it is my honor to represent them.

Mr. Chairman, on Wednesday night I held a telephone town hall with the community of Los Alamos on this issue. During the town hall an informal poll question asked whether people support a diversification of the lab's mission. Eighty-four percent of the respondents—over half of whom were employees at LANL—supported such a diversification.

I do not believe that we must continue with a status quo mission for our national laboratories. Nor do I believe that creating a national security strategy in a policy vacuum without any regard for the needs of the future is the way to proceed. There is an absolute need, and, in fact, a great opportunity, for our national laboratories to diversify their missions and expand the scientific research being conducted in order to meet the challenges we are facing. From energy independence to health care to climate change modeling, we have the capacity for this diversification. I hope that in the coming months and years I will be joined by others who believe in this cause.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2764, the FY08 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and related appropriations Act.

I am pleased that the bill includes \$75 million in funding for programs that address the needs of Afghan women and girls including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women-led nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan. The Committee directs \$15 million of these funds to be made available as grants to support training and equipment to improve the capacity of women-led Afghan NGOs as well as their activities. This funding builds upon funding for Afghan women and girls included in an amendment that I offered to the FY2004 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill and funding included in subsequent appropriations bills.

During the past several years, the United States has invested in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan both because it is the right thing to do and because it is critical to our security. However, I, like many of my colleagues, am troubled by the circumstances facing women in Afghanistan. We have heard from Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghan