

disbursed more quickly. I am happy that his concerns regarding the balance of obligated but unspent funds have been resolved. It is an efficient program with strong fiduciary controls. I was pleased to work with Mr. DICKS on this amendment.

BEIF, which was created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), makes environmental infrastructure projects affordable for communities throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region by combining grant funds with loans or other forms of financing. It was created with the understanding that a healthy and economically strong border region is critical to a secure border and to the flow of commerce. Economic development rests on a foundation of strong infrastructure. In many poorer border communities, however, the capital does not often exist to build water and wastewater infrastructure. BEIF funds go toward increasing water and wastewater capacity—bringing services to people who have not previously had them, improving public health, supporting economic development in poor border communities, and ultimately strengthening our southern border.

Every million dollars in BEIF water and wastewater investment results in the following over 10 years: \$11.1 million in private sector investment, 221 new jobs, \$1.7 million in tax revenue, and \$52.2 million in goods produced by the private sector. Generally, BEIF and accompanying efforts have aided 185 projects that have benefitted over 7.5 million residents.

In my own district of El Paso, Texas, water and wastewater projects have received about \$65 million in funding under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program. That funding has gone toward innovative water planning for a growing city in the middle of the desert, toward technical assistance for smaller waterworks, and toward bringing water and wastewater infrastructure to unincorporated settlements, or colonias. This irreplaceable funding source for border communities must be maintained.

Let's bring water and wastewater to those who don't have it. Let's bring economic development to poor communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Let's invest in a strong and secure border. I urge my colleagues to join our chairman, Mr. DICKS, and me in supporting this critical amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH TORCASO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, last week, Kenosha, Wisconsin, lost a long-time community leader—Joseph Torcaso, who has run Torcaso Shoe Repair shop on 52nd Street for over 60 years. A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he started learning the shoe repair business from his father in 1937, at the age of 9, and his shop is one of the touchstones of the Kenosha community. Joe passed away on Friday.

Everyone knew and liked Joe, and his lively wit and sense of humor brightened countless people's lives. He was known as the "Mayor of 52nd Street" or, by some, as the "Oracle of 52nd Street" for his knack at forecasting political victors.

More than just an exceptionally skilled craftsman and a small business owner, Joe was a man of great character. He helped give Kenosha its strong sense of community, and the city will sorely miss this devoted family man and friend who lifted so many customers' spirits. Joe was also a great friend of mine, and I will miss him deeply.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, and grandchildren during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN P. MINTZ, M.D.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. who passed away on June 3, 2007.

Born in Chicago, Alan P. Mintz graduated from the University of Chicago and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois—School of Medicine. Prior to his postgraduate training in radiology, in which he later specialized, Dr. Mintz served as a physician in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Mintz was a highly respected professional in the field of radiology and served as a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology, was board certified in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy, and was also appointed chairman of the Department of Radiology for several Chicago-area hospitals.

Motivated by his passion for health and wellness, Dr. Mintz pioneered a new medical specialty with his work in age management medicine. He has become famous within the field for his controversial promotion in the use of steroids and human growth hormone as an anti-aging therapy for patients. Dr. Mintz cofounded and served as CEO and President of Medicon, Inc., the world's largest radiology management company. His inventive thinking stimulated the creation of Cenegenics Medical Institute, the largest age management medicine organization in the world. Although headquartered in Las Vegas, Cenegenics Medical Institute has offices in South Carolina, Florida, Hong Kong, and South Korea with service reaching more than 12,000 patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. Dr. Mintz lived his life according to his favorite maxim by Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams . . . Live the life you have imagined." Dr. Mintz clearly fulfilled this statement and will be missed by the many lives he touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN PAUL POLLINGER, PHD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, teaching is among the most noble and demanding of professions; and excellence in the delivery of education helps not only individuals, but the entire community, become

more tolerant, knowledgeable, and strong. The effectiveness and efficiency of learning depends, in large measure, on those individuals who have dedicated their life to quality education, public service, and excellence. Recognizing one educator in particular, I would like to congratulate Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his recent Law Teacher of the Year for Middle School Award, given to him by the American Bar Association. After receiving his doctorate in education from Fordham University in New York, he taught at several universities, most recently at Florida Atlantic University, while serving as the Middle School Administrator at Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton, FL. Dr. Pollinger has also served as a staff developer for the Broward County School Board, curriculum designer in social science, principal at the elementary and middle school levels, and participated in creating Holocaust education that is now a part of the Florida curriculum.

After taking on the law program at Seminole Middle School in Plantation, FL, he involved the school in the Broward County Mock Trial program under the direction of Judge Robert Diaz. Seminole Middle School not only participated in the program, but they won the competition! It was the success of this program that led to Dr. Pollinger involving the students in the American Bar Association's mock trials competition. His participation and leadership in education led Dr. Pollinger to win the American Bar Association's Law Teacher of the Year for Middle Schools. He will travel to San Francisco in August to receive the award, while simultaneously representing Seminole Middle School, Broward County, the State of Florida, and of course my home district, Florida 20. With that said Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his positive impact on the lives of others.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Lamborn Amendment, which would cut all funding in the underlying bill for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA has been shortchanged for far too long, and it's time to ensure that it has the resources necessary to carry out its mission of supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

Since 1996, Congress has forced the NEA to meet the ever growing demands of our communities on a shoestring budget. Despite gross underfunding, the NEA has continued to promote arts and culture across the country.

With the able leadership of my good friends Rep. SLAUGHTER and Rep. SHAYS, co-chairs of the Congressional Arts Caucus, we've been making steady progress every year in getting back to the appropriate level of funding for the NEA. This amendment represents an enormous and simply unthinkable step backwards for the Arts in our country.

Madam Chairman, I strongly oppose the Lamborn Amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

REMEMBERING DR. HANS
SENNHOLZ

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and achievements of Hans F. Sennholz. Dr. Sennholz was one of the foremost free-market economists of his generation and an inspiration to tens of thousands of people around the world.

Dr. Sennholz was born on February 3, 1922 in Germany in the midst of the German hyperinflation crisis and experienced firsthand the Great Depression and the horrors of Hitler's dictatorship. After receiving his master's degree from the University of Marburg and a doctorate in political science from the University of Cologne, Dr. Sennholz received a Ph.D. in economics at New York University, where he studied under the Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises.

In his 37 years as a professor of economics at Grove City College, Dr. Sennholz was a formative influence for over 10,000 students. During an era in which Keynesianism was the dominant economic ideology, Dr. Sennholz's efforts played a major role in keeping alive the flame of classical liberalism and market-based economics. Dr. Sennholz and his free market ideas were a perfect fit for Grove City, which is one of only two colleges in the United States which eschews federal education funding.

Dr. Sennholz later became President of the Foundation for Economic Education, reviving the institution and renewing its mission to advancing the ideals of private property, individual liberty, the rule of law, and the free market. He also served as an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute, from which he received the Gary G. Schlarbaum Prize in 2004 for his lifelong dedication to the cause of liberty.

I first met Dr. Sennholz in the early 1970s during the campaign to legalize the private ownership of gold. He was a tremendous influence on me and introduced me to other eminent economists of the Austrian School. Dr. Sennholz consistently taught the beneficial effects of the gold standard and was a tireless opponent of inflation. He never ceased to persist in pointing out the problems of fiat currency, the evils of inflation, and the perils of the Federal Reserve's loose monetary policy.

Dr. Sennholz passed away on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the age of 85, having lived a full and rewarding life. Generations of free-market economists are indebted to him, his spirited teaching, and his lucid writing for keeping free-market economic teaching alive during trying times. Congress would do well to

heed his advice on the importance of free markets and the folly of fiat currency.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to clarify my position on two votes taken during consideration of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 and to reiterate my strong support of pro-life issues.

During consideration of the bill, I inadvertently opposed the Pitts amendment, which would have restored equal funding and a balanced approach in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and voted yes on final passage. While voting via electronic device during two minute votes, I thought I had voted correctly but was recorded otherwise. By the time I had realized what had happened, the votes had been closed.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress, I have been a strong supporter of pro-life policies. For these reasons, I want to reiterate my support for the Pitts amendment and my opposition to final passage of the bill.

2008 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRI-
ATIONS BILL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased the House has acted on this important legislation.

I want to compliment my colleague, the chairman of this subcommittee, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, for the work he and his colleagues put into this bill. The priorities in this bill send a strong message to our military servicemembers and our veterans that we are serious about honoring our obligations to them.

To help deal with the constant problem of medical inflation and the rising costs of health care, this bill provides \$37,122,000,000 for the Veterans' Health Administration—an increase of \$4,442,265,000 or 13.6 percent over the FY 2007 level and \$2,509,329,000 more than the President requested. This increase is long overdue and vitally needed.

Since the attacks on 9/11, more than 1.5 million American military personnel have been deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. When those men and women eventually separate from the service, a large number of them will require ongoing medical care for the wounds and injuries they've suffered in service to our country, particularly for mental health needs and traumatic brain injuries, TBI. This bill provides \$604,325,858 to increase funding for treatment in these areas.

We all know that TBI has, tragically, become the signature injury of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to providing an overall higher level of funding for medical

care for all veterans, this bill directs that all future budget requests include TBI as a Select Program—in other words, as a dedicated line item. That designation will help ensure that TBI treatment and rehabilitation programs receive the funding and focus required to meet the needs of veterans who are living with this life-altering injury.

This bill also recognizes that substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, are plaguing record numbers of veterans. The National Center for PTSD has reported that 58 percent of veterans who have substance abuse problems also have lifetime PTSD and are three times more likely to have PTSD than veterans who do not suffer from substance abuse disorders. To deal with this challenge, the bill provides \$428,873,754 for the Substance Abuse Program, an increase of \$70,880,754 over the President's request.

Finally, this bill contains an important accountability provision that the Bush administration opposed.

Specifically, the committee mandates in this bill that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide quarterly reports on the financial status and service level status of the VHA and each of its Veterans Integrated Service Networks, VISNs. The reports must contain the time required for new patients to get their first appointment, the time required for established patients to get their next appointment, the number of patients on wait lists for inpatient services or any mental health or substance abuse program, the number of staff shortages for mental health services, the planned and actual expenditure rates for contracted mental health care, and the number of unique veterans and patients being served. Specific reports on the blind rehabilitation service, OIF/OEF veterans, prosthetics, and substance abuse programs are also mandated in this bill.

I am pleased that Chairman EDWARDS and his colleagues are taking this approach to auditing the VA's programs. We all know that veterans are waiting longer to get their first or follow up appointments with their primary care providers. These provisions will help us establish just how serious the problem is and whether inadequate resources, poor management, or both are contributing to these delays in the delivery of vital health care services to our veterans. For these and the other reasons I've cited, I look forward to this bill's final passage by the Congress.

IN TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WARREN
L. HENDERSON'S RETIREMENT
FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel Warren Henderson for his 26 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Chief, Weapon Systems Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison. Colonel Warren Henderson is responsible for Congressional liaison and annual authorization of over \$50B for all Air Force weapon systems, munitions,