

outstanding work they do every day and for the many contributions they make to our community, I am honored to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven County Bar Association and its membership as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN DON
ORNDOFF, CIVIL ENGINEER
CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Don Orndoff, a native of Winchester, in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, for his distinguished career as he retires from the United States Navy.

Captain Orndoff served our country not only as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer for 29 years, but also as Naval Facilities Engineering Command Assistant Commander for Navy Public Works and Navy Public Works Business Line Leader. Captain Orndoff graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and has done tours in such places as Pearl Harbor, San Francisco and Yokosuka, Japan.

After being chosen to lead a Navy Installation Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Command transformation Captain Orndoff implemented a dramatic restructuring and transformation of all NAVFAC components. He reduced their required workforce by 1,100 civilian positions and increased productivity 13 percent, directly resulting in over \$600 million in savings and creating the most comprehensive and fundamental reorganization of the command in more than three decades.

As the Navy Public Works Business Line Leader, Captain Orndoff successfully led over 9,000 civilian and military employees and contractors, executing an annual workload of \$3.6 billion for the Navy's global shore installation system.

I am proud to call attention to Captain Orndoff's service to our country through a career marked by inspirational moral courage, exceptional vision and relentless leadership. I also commend him and his family for their dedication to patriotism and their contributions to the United States Navy, and wish them well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER GAMBLE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, my hometown of Seymour, Indiana, has lost one of its finest. Although Carter A. Gamble, Jr. was born and raised in Georgia, he called Southern Indiana home for a short while. Carter Gamble was tragically killed in Iraq Sunday. My deepest condolences go to his family—his wife, Peggy, his children, including one on the way, his extended family, particularly Jackson County Sheriff Marc Lahrman and Carter's grandparents, Bob and Helen Lahrman. Carter served this country so notably and honorably.

He was deployed to Iraq twice, the second time reenlisting in the Army knowing he would likely be sent to Iraq. I thank him for his unwavering commitment to our great Nation. I thank his family for loving and supporting him. Carter will be greatly missed and was taken much too soon from his young and growing family. Let us all keep Carter Gamble and his family in our constant thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, many of us recognize that one of the great challenges facing our nation today is combating global warming by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for the rapidly rising temperatures on our planet. What many may not realize, however, is that the largest source of emissions and energy consumption both in this country and around the world is buildings. Given this fact, any attempt to stem the tide of growing greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency must include the building sector. The federal government has an important role to play on this count, and must provide leadership to the rest of the country and world. To that end, I rise to introduce today the Energy Efficient Buildings Promotion Act of 2007.

This legislation takes up "The 2030 Challenge," issued by Ed Mazria of the organization Architecture 2030, who, I am proud to say, is one of my constituents and who was also instrumental in developing this legislation. The 2030 Challenge calls on the global architecture and building community to adopt targets to ensure that all new buildings, new developments and existing buildings undergoing major renovations, achieve carbon neutrality, or use no fossil fuel greenhouse gas emitting energy to operate, by 2030.

Organizations, architects, local governments, and individuals wanting to do their part have all taken up this challenge. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted it for all buildings in all cities. It is time for the federal government to do so as well. In the United States, the building sector accounts for approximately 48 percent of all annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Several states have implemented building standards for state government buildings, but the federal government needs to lead the rest of the nation by example, to encourage reduced fossil-fuel energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the "built" environment.

My legislation ensures that the federal government answers Architecture 2030's call by establishing an energy performance standard for new federal or federally supported buildings. For new federal buildings and federal buildings undergoing major renovations, they must meet the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver level standards, or an equivalent standard approved by EPA. They must achieve at least a 60 percent reduction compared to the regional average en-

ergy consumption for that building type, and they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 70 percent by 2011, 80 percent by 2015, 90 percent by 2020, and 100 percent by 2025.

In addition, my legislation establishes similar standards for new buildings and buildings undergoing major renovations that were built with at least 10 percent of federal funds. These buildings or renovations must be designed to achieve at least a 50 percent reduction compared to regional average energy consumption for that building type. Also, they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 60 percent by 2011, 70 percent by 2015, 80 percent by 2020, 90 percent by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030.

Madam Speaker, I believe these two new standards and the improved energy efficiency that will result will be a strong marker of Federal leadership towards more environmentally friendly buildings.

It is not enough by itself, however. Another avenue for Federal leadership is the U.S. tax code. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 recognized this and established several very important tax credits and deductions to promote energy efficient construction and improvements to homes and commercial buildings. Many of these tax provisions are not only scheduled to expire in 2008, but in the estimation of many, were also set at amounts too low to spark the level of construction and efficiency improvements needed.

To that end, this legislation extends to 2013 and increases the Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000, it extends to 2013 and increases the New Energy Efficient Homes Tax Deduction from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per unit, and extends to 2013 and increases the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction from \$1.80 to \$2.75 per square foot.

Madam Speaker, we must take steps to address the greenhouse gas emissions and energy inefficiencies in the building sector. The Federal Government has a unique opportunity to provide the leadership for the rest of the country and even the world in promoting greener building. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and help begin stemming the tide of a significant portion of the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the problem of global warming.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER
WESTHOFF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christopher Westhoff, Assistant City Attorney—Public Works General Counsel with the City of Los Angeles, California, who will become President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

Christopher Westhoff is an environmental champion for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the Nation. He is an exceptional leader and public steward, dedicated to the improvement of Los Angeles' water quality and public health.

A former prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, Christopher has spent over 15 years serving as the General Counsel to the Board of Public Works. He has been the Public Works Department's legal counsel on environmental regulatory issues including wastewater treatment, air quality, and storm water management. He played a leadership role in guaranteeing clean and safe water for future generations of Californians by helping ensure the upgrade of the Hyperion Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment of its wastewater. Christopher helped to develop and defend policies that have helped clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and achieve 100 percent beneficial reuse of the city's biosolids. His negotiations in a landmark settlement agreement for Los Angeles' collection systems led to a reduction in sewer spills of more than 70 percent. Christopher also participated in the development and implementation of Proposition "O", which provided for \$500 million in bonds for stormwater management improvements and green technologies.

In 1999, Mr. Westhoff was elected to NACWA's Board of Directors. He currently acts as the Association's Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Later this month; Christopher will become NACWA's President. As the President of NACWA, he will build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment.

For his tireless commitment to ensuring that Los Angeles becomes an environmentally smart city, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Christopher Westhoff on becoming President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival which is celebrating an outstanding 40-year tradition. A special Monterey County Celtic Week, with a variety of Celtic-themed activities and events, will commemorate this milestone. These events include a Caber Parade in Carmel; the 3rd Annual Monterey Bay School of Piping and Drumming; a performance by the Monterey Bay Pipe Band in the 4th of July Parade in downtown Monterey; a Celtic Concert with musicians and dancers; culminating in the 40th Annual Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival on July 7th–8th.

Featuring fun activities for the entire family, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival is a wonderful "festival for the senses" which includes authentic Celtic music, colorful Highland, Scottish and Irish dancing, athletic competitions such as the famous Caber Toss, massed pipe bands on parade, children's games, delicious food, great shopping, and more.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival not only is an exciting event to attend, it also raises money to benefit many local chari-

table organizations. Over the past 40 years, the Festival has donated thousands of dollars to various organizations such as Peninsula Outreach, Alliance on Aging, Monterey Schools, Meals on Wheels, Boy Scouts of America, and the Armed Forces Relief Fund.

The Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival celebrates tradition and family by highlighting and creating music, dance and athletic competitions for the youth and participating community members of the Monterey Area. The festival keeps alive the Celtic culture in Monterey County, promotes the study of Celtic music and dance, and awards funds and youth scholarships to the Monterey School of Piping and Drumming.

Madam Speaker, the Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival provides quality events in a unique, friendly setting to educate, entertain, and inspire the local Monterey community as well as attract visitors to the County. The contributions the Festival has made to the community are invaluable and I am honored to acknowledge July 1–8, 2007, as Monterey County Celtic Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on June 22, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I was attending a memorial service for the nine firefighters who so bravely gave their lives in the line of duty on June 18, 2007, in Charleston, SC.

Regarding the votes that I missed, please see below how I would have voted had I been present:

Rollcall vote No. 543: On the Motion to Call the Previous Question for the Rule on H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—“nay.”

Rollcall Vote No. 544: On the Motion adopting the Rule for H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriation Act.—“nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 545: On the Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE of Arizona to reduce funding for the Government Printing Office by \$3,200,000.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 546: On the Amendment offered by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio to reduce appropriations in the bill by 4 percent across the board.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 547: On Republican Motion to Recommit that would strike the \$16 million included in the bill for the congressional takeover of the former FDA building.—“yea.”

Rollcall vote No. 548: On Passage of H.R. 2771, The Legislative Branch Appropriations.—“nay.”

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
CONNIE HUGHES

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Commissioner Connie

Hughes for a long and distinguished career as she retires July 1, 2007, after more than 30 years of public service to New Jersey and its residents.

A commissioner with the New Jersey board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes was appointed to the board in July 2001 by then-Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. She also has served as board president.

She has held numerous senior positions within the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, including serving as its representative to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Government Coordinating Council for the Telecom Sector.

Before joining the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Commissioner Hughes served as then-Governor DiFrancesco's Chief of Management and Policy; ex-officio Commissioner of Higher Education; and on the New Jersey State Planning Commission, the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education, the New Jersey State Board of Human Services, and the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission Board of Directors.

Known chiefly for her expertise in telecommunications policy, Commissioner Hughes focused her career on issues affecting New Jersey and its consumers. My staff and I, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, had the pleasure of working with her on matters of mutual interest to the State.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Connie Hughes on her more than three decades of outstanding public service to my state of New Jersey and its residents.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

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. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I supported the Hinchey-Wolf amendment to the FY 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. This amendment would have established a one-year spending limitation with regard to the designation of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors under section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I supported this limitation amendment because section 1221 is a flawed provision of federal law, and the Department of Energy's implementation of the provision has enhanced concerns about the law rather than addressed them.

Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act grants the Department of Energy unprecedented siting and construction authority for transmission lines. While I strongly support the upgrade of our nation's transmission infrastructure and believe that states and the federal government need tools to make this happen, section 1221 goes too far. The provision