

country for over 4 years. And our President continues to push a strategy devoid of clear direction and visible targets, while rejecting congressional calls to solidify an exit strategy.

President Bush's "New Way Forward" strategy, announced in January, calls for the deployment of an additional 21,500 U.S. combat forces, to be used to stabilize Baghdad and the Anbar Province. This comes at a time when, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, 59 percent of Americans believe we should be reducing the number of troops in Iraq.

Last November, the American people clearly stated that they did not want to see an endless conflict in Iraq; they went to the polls and elected a new, Democratic Congress to lead our nation out of Iraq. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional class that listens and adheres to the will of the American people, as we did when both houses of Congress approved Iraq Supplemental bills that instituted a timetable for U.S. withdrawal. We need a new direction, because we owe our brave, fighting men and women so much more. Washington made a mistake in going to war. It is time for politicians to admit that mistake and fix it before any more lives are lost.

Though much of Iraq's infrastructure now lies in ruins, the country still has an immense abundance of energy resources. In proven oil reserves, Iraq ranks behind only Saudi Arabia and Canada, though the exact extent of its reserves remains controversial. Most estimates are in the range of 115 billion barrels, with approximately 65 percent located in the southern fields, particularly the Rumalia fields.

Iraq's energy sector is vital to the nation's political and economic future, with oil exports funding virtually all imports of basic goods, including food and medicine. Oil exports currently provide about 95 percent of Iraq's foreign exchange earnings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman Lee for introducing this important legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on July 18th, I inadvertently voted "yea" for rollcall vote No. 662, it was my intention to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAYMOND M. FLAVIN ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in recognizing Mr. Raymond M. Flavin on his 95th birthday. This momentous occasion will be marked by a reception on September 2, 2007.

Mr. Flavin was born on August 25, 1912 in Litchfield, ND and moved to the Flint area in 1935. On January 18, 1937 he married his

wife Dorothy and the couple had five children. Ray moved to Flint Township in 1941 where his residency remains to this day.

Ray Flavin began his public service career in 1955 as a trustee on the Flint Township Board. He was also the police commissioner during this term. Ray was elected Supervisor of Flint Township by the Township Board in 1958 to fill the unexpired term of the previous supervisor who had passed away. In April 1959 he was elected to the position of Flint Township Supervisor. He served in this capacity during the years 1958 to 1964, from 1970 to 1972, and 1974 through 1980 for a total of 15 years.

Ray's position as Township Supervisor boasts many accomplishments, including: successfully joining the efforts to make Flint Township a Charter Township and assisting in the creation of the Kate McCarthy Senior Citizens Center.

Mr. Flavin was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives 83rd District in 1965. During his term he was a member of the State Ways and Means Committee and was Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Government.

Madam Speaker, I am a better person because of my friendship with Ray Flavin. I shall always be grateful to him. Madam Speaker, once again, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 95th birthday of Mr. Raymond M. Flavin.

HONORING KEVIN FOURNIER ON HIS GRADUATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ACADEMY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Fournier, an outstanding native of Beverly in my congressional district, who will graduate from the United States Capitol Police Training Academy today, July 27, 2007.

Kevin Fournier grew up in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood and graduated in 2002 from Brother Rice High School. Kevin then attended the University of Iowa where he studied political science, earning a degree in 2005. From an early age, Kevin displayed the qualities of a scholar and a leader, and has always been determined to positively influence his community and society at large.

Kevin's dedication, in addition to his outstanding academic and physical performance credentials, enabled him to enter the ranks of one of the finest law enforcement organizations in our Nation, the United States Capitol Police. Like all successful Capitol Police recruits, Kevin completed extensive courses at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and at the Capitol Police Training Academy. Kevin's exceptional interpersonal skills, professionalism, and technical proficiency in firearms and police procedures will enable him to protect and serve Members of Congress, staff, guests, and the general public with distinction.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Officer Kevin Fournier and all of our new Capitol Police officers as they begin careers on Capitol Hill. I have confidence that these fine new officers, like Kevin, will serve

as an example to other police officers around the country, following in the great tradition of the Capitol Police. As Members of Congress, we are grateful for the commitment of these new officers, and are forever indebted to all the men and women who have served or currently serve in the United States Capitol Police.

HONORING ENGINE COMPANY NO. 110 OF THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of Engine Company No. 110 of the Chicago Fire Department on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Over the last century Engine Company No. 110 has selflessly served the community to keep it safe.

The local firehouse is an important, traditional, and valuable resource in the neighborhood. Engine Company 110 strives for perfection to better help those in the community.

I have visited Engine Company No. 110 many times. This company has always epitomized the exemplary values of honor and protection that the Chicago Fire Department and the Maltese Cross have become known to symbolize. All too often we take for granted the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants.

Fire Marshall and Chief of Brigade, D.J. Swenie originally established Engine Company No. 110 on September 7, 1907. Today, Captain Dave Dietz continues this tradition of bravery and service for our community.

The anniversary celebration honoring Engine Company No. 110 will take place on September 8th at the current firehouse location at 2322 W. Foster Avenue. This will be a wonderful event that will memorialize this important anniversary.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the north side of Chicago and the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish to recognize the past and current firefighters of Engine Company No. 110 for their dedication and commitment to service. Moreover, I wish all the best for the future firefighters of Engine Company No. 110 and their families.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE PROSTATE CANCER MEDICAID COVERAGE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to allow treatment using Medicaid funds for men who are diagnosed with prostate cancer. This bill mirrors the measure that Congress enacted in 1999 to help low-income women who would otherwise not qualify for Medicaid, despite being diagnosed with

breast cancer or cervical cancer. Congress found that women responded in large numbers to efforts by government and others to encourage early diagnosis using mammography after the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act was enacted in 1990. However, in 1999 Congress recognized that because the screening did not provide coverage of treatment for women above the poverty level, the screening legislation had the tragic but unintended consequence of informing these women of a serious disease that demanded immediate treatment but leaving them without the means to seek that treatment. Later, Congress amended Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for the women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a Federally funded screening program.

In today's bill, I have endeavored to provide the same relief for men. This bill allows men, earning up to 250 percent of the poverty level, who are diagnosed with prostate cancer through a Federal screening program for prostate cancer, to qualify for treatment using Medicaid funds. The program would target men who are low-income, uninsured or underinsured men who, nevertheless, do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have private insurance.

Prostate cancer outranks breast cancer as the second most common occurring cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. However, diagnosing this cancer is often less expensive, and unlike breast cancer, often does not require immediate treatment. Prostate cancer treatment does not require invasive surgery in many instances. Many prostate cases can be diagnosed with a simple Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) Test unlike the high technology mammography machines used to detect breast cancer. Many men are advised to wait and watch for the development of the disease before seeking treatment.

However the rate of cancer deaths coupled with available treatment is strong evidence that many lives could be saved at considerably less expense if early detection and treatment were more available. Although race is a factor, every man over the age of 50 is at risk of developing prostate cancer and should be screened. Veterans that have been exposed to Agent Orange also have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer. Many doctors recommend yearly screening for men over age 50, and some advise men who are at a higher risk for prostate cancer to begin screening at age 40 or 45. Many black men are at the highest risk of prostate cancer—it tends to start at younger ages and grows faster than in men of other races. Currently, Medicare provides coverage for an annual PSA test for all men age 50 and older but men still do not fall within existing requirements to receive Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in establishing this program guaranteeing treatment for men diagnosed with prostate cancer. It will meet an immediate and pressing need in communities across the country, and across racial and class lines.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

PRaising PEACE MEDIATOR
BETTY BIGOMBE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of Ms. Betty Bigombe who has worked tirelessly on the Northern Uganda's peace process for over two decades. Ms. Betty Bigombe's story was featured in the Washington Post on July 11, 2007 in an article entitled, "The Woman Behind Uganda's Peace Hopes."

Ms. Bigombe was the primary negotiator between Joseph Kony, the commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Ms. Bigombe first started working on the northern Ugandan peace process in 1988 when Museveni appointed her as the minister of state for the north. Ms. Bigombe was called to action again on Feb. 21, 2004 after reading news dispatches of a massacre at a displacement camp in Barloonyo.

Ms. Bigombe contributed to the peace talks by meeting with Joseph Kony and his army and urged them to sign a peace agreement. While the peace talks in Northern Uganda are now being led by southern Sudanese mediators, Kampala officials and the LRA continue to regularly consult with Ms. Bigombe.

Ms. Bigombe has my deepest respect and admiration. She has put her life on the line and became the voice of nearly 2 million displaced Ugandans and 25,000 children who were kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers and sex slaves. The road towards peace in Northern Uganda has taken personal sacrifice on the behalf of Ms. Bigombe. For instance, she has personally financed her operations while in Uganda and lived off grants. She found herself bankrupt in 2005 as a result. In addition, working on the peace process demanded time away from her family and loved ones and she often found herself missing birthdays and other celebrations. These are life moments that she simply cannot get back.

Ms. Bigombe and others like her should be celebrated for their bravery and contributions in bringing peace throughout the world.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, this is an important bill that funds many crucial priorities for this Nation. I offer my congratulations to the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. MOLLOHAN, for crafting a bill that balances important in-

vestments in law enforcement and economic development with the need to maintain our Nation's scientific and technological leadership.

Nowhere has Chairman MOLLOHAN shown more foresight and wisdom than in his decision to increase our national investment in NASA, which has been at the forefront of humanity's exploration of the cosmos for the past 39 years.

Earlier this year, I told NASA administrator Michael Griffin that I viewed the President's budget request for NASA as a floor and not a ceiling. That request, for \$17.3 billion, was \$1.4 billion below the congressionally authorized level and, in my view, shortchanged too much science on the one hand, while allowing no margin for error whatsoever in terms of human spaceflight.

This budget crunch at the space agency has been brewing for several years. To start, the costs resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the Space Shuttle Return-to Flight after the *Columbia* tragedy were never recouped by NASA. Second, several big-ticket and vital missions have exceeded cost estimates and, third, the addition of the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission adds an additional funding burden to NASA.

At the same time, the FY 2007 Joint Resolution reduced NASA's human spaceflight program budget by \$670 million, the practical effect of which will be at least a 6-month delay in the launch of the new Orion and Ares I, a delay that will increase the 4 year "gap" in American human spaceflight capability and increase our reliance on the Russians to launch and recover crew for the International Space Station.

And, Mr. Chairman, even as we speak, the People's Republic of China is working hard to become a dominant space power—both in the civilian sector and in the military use of space.

This budget crunch has brought us to a point of reckoning. Congress and this Nation are going to need to make some decisions about the value of space to our national life. I know that there is broad and deep support for NASA and its mission and I also believe that we should begin to ramp up the NASA budget to make our push back to the Moon a reality, while continuing to answer the great fundamental questions about our own planet and our place in the cosmos.

It is the area of space science that most concerns me and where I think that Chairman MOLLOHAN has been especially responsive to the needs of America's scientific community. I have a special concern for space science as my colleague from California, Mr. DREIER, and I represent the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which is the crown jewel of NASA's efforts to explore the solar system and the universe beyond.

One of the most exciting endeavors that NASA is engaged in is the search for the presence of planets around neighboring stars. NASA's search for planets and life beyond our solar system is having increasing and dramatic success with over 105 planets now discovered.

For years, JPL has been working on a planet hunter spacecraft and the Space Interferometry Mission program has successfully passed all its technological milestones and is thus ready for development. SIM is expected to examine 2000–3000 stars for planetary systems to fulfill a critical step in the search for Earth-like planets.