

fully lived life. Although most Americans have yet to commit to a presidential candidate, Richard was making calls for Sen. Barack Obama from his hospital bed during his last days. No doubt, Richard died a happy man, but he left many friends like me, who feel the void of his passing. Long live Richard.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
HEALTHCARE IN IRAQ

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of several of our 7th District constituents who are working to rebuild the shattered healthcare system in Iraq. The collaboration between Dr. Goran Bekhtyar, a Kurdish-American physician from Franklin, Tennessee and Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company based in Memphis, demonstrates to all of us that individual people can indeed achieve remarkable results.

I came to know Dr. Bekhtyar several years ago through his service in the Tennessee state government. After the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime, Dr. Bekhtyar set aside his medical practice in Franklin, Tennessee to work full-time at rebuilding the medical system in his native Iraq. He founded a non-profit organization, Improved Health Systems for Iraq (IHSI), and has traveled frequently to Iraq to advise health officials. During his brief visits home, he has worked tirelessly to enlist American healthcare providers and companies in his efforts.

Dr. Bekhtyar told me of the primitive conditions and lack of modern equipment that prevents Iraqi doctors from effectively treating their patients. I encouraged him to contact Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company that specializes in developing Orthopaedic Trauma & Clinical Therapies, Orthopaedic Reconstruction, Endoscopy and Advanced Wound Management products. After meeting with Dr. Bekhtyar, Smith & Nephew leaders such as Dwayne Montgomery, Ken Reali, Zane Wood, and Mark Augusti immediately committed to assisting the efforts of IHSI.

Over the past six months, this team has spearheaded a donation drive through its Project Apollo Program, which will provide nearly half a million dollars of vital and crucial medical devices to orthopaedic surgeons and hospitals in Iraq. The program will provide advanced, world-class products such as non-locking plates and screws, and the Exogen ultrasonic bone healing system. Dr. Bekhtyar will return to Iraq on August 23rd and begin the distribution of the medical devices to Iraqi hospitals and physicians.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the passion and perseverance of Dr. Goran Bekhtyar and the initiative and generosity of Smith & Nephew. Together, they are setting an example of selflessness that we would all do well to follow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR
KENNETH MYERS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker on behalf of Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ROBERT WEXLER, RON KLEIN and myself, I rise to honor the life and memory of former Senator Kenneth Myers.

A tireless advocate for the rights of others, Senator Myers served with distinction in the Florida Legislature for 16 years; 4 years in the House of Representatives, followed by 12 years in the Senate. Senator Myers was truly an outstanding leader in the State of Florida. He honorably served as chair of the Dade Delegation and sponsored more than 200 pieces of legislation and many ground-breaking laws. Throughout his life, Senator Myers was a compassionate and dedicated man who provided consummate service to the community.

Born in Miami in 1933, Senator Myers graduated from Miami High School in 1950. He attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and went on to earn his law degree at the University of Florida's School of Law.

Coming from a family of compassionate leaders, Senator Myers grew up with a strong sense of commitment and dedication to the community. His father, Stanley Myers, founded the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. His sister, Judy Gilbert-Gould currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Federation. Senator Myers' nephew Robert Gilbert serves as an officer on the Federation's Board, and his nephew Mark Gilbert is active in youth programs at Temple Beth Am in Miami. Senator Myers' niece Carolyn and other family members are following in his footsteps by dedicating their time, talents and service to the community, as well.

Though Senator Myers will be remembered by his former colleagues as an eloquent speaker and fervent debater, his lasting legacy to the people of the State of Florida will be his championing of legislation on behalf of women's rights, the administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and his assistance for alcoholics and the mentally ill.

The Jewish prayer for mourning never speaks of death, but often speaks of peace. My colleagues and I extend these words of peace as well as our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Senator Kenneth Myers and to the entire south Florida community during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. Oncology nurses provide clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families and are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

I would like to specifically acknowledge Laura Benson from New Rochelle, New York, for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, as treasurer, and her role as senior director of medical communications and medical information at OSI Pharmaceuticals. Laura, who received her bachelors, masters, and nurse practitioner degrees from Adelphi University, has served on the ONS Board of Directors for the past 3 years. Laura also served as the patient care consultant for Schering Oncology Biotech. In this capacity, she serviced all of Long Island, New York City, and Westchester County.

The Oncology Nursing Society has 13 chapters in my home State of New York. These chapters serve the oncology nurses in the State and support them in their efforts to provide high-quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout New York. Laura has served as president of her chapter and was awarded ONS' AOCN of the Year award in 1999.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Laura Benson for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Laura has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for her accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MR. DAVID DINKINS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my brother, Mr. David Dinkins, for his public service career, and to congratulate him on his 80th birthday. I feel it quite appropriate to honor David by highlighting his accomplishments and the contributions he has made, and continues to make, to the city of New York and this great Nation.

David Dinkins, born July 10, 1927, in Trenton, NJ, moved to Harlem in 1953 and has been an integral part of New York since then. He served his country during World War II in the United States Marine Corps, and later by entering the world of politics.

Mr. Dinkins graduated from Howard University in 1950. With politics on his mind, he decided to further pursue his education at Brooklyn Law School in 1953. Mr. Dinkins went on to start a family, marrying Ms. Joyce Burrows and raising two children, Donna and David Jr., in Harlem.

With the support of his family and friends, Mr. Dinkins became more involved in politics. With friends, including Basil Paterson, Percy Sutton, and myself, we became pioneers in the politics of New York City, eventually being named the "gang of four." David went on to become very influential, swiftly moving up in New York's political structure.

Mr. Dinkins has held numerous positions in New York including: New York State Legislature, and New York city clerk. He was elected Manhattan Borough president in 1985 which was a sign of his determination, as this was his third run for office. Mr. Dinkins later ran for mayor, and was elected on November 7, 1989, becoming the first African American to serve as the mayor of New York City.

Inheriting a city in distress, including a budget deficit close to \$2 billion dollars and a seemingly uncontrollable crime rate, David Dinkins had his hands full. The city also faced racial tensions that needed attention quickly, which Mayor Dinkins provided. Mayor Dinkins was able to soothe the city amidst times of turmoil, stemming from disagreements across ethnicities, which were very common during his tenure as mayor. Mr. Dinkins left office after turning the budget deficit into a surplus, and acting as the peacemaker in the city.

As a professor of public affairs at Columbia University, Mr. Dinkins continues to work for others by providing young adults with an education. He is to be commended for his achievements. David Dinkins is a dear friend, and serves as an inspiration to me, as well as many others. As Americans, we should honor him by joining his family in celebration of his 80th birthday.

**BILL TO PROMOTE COOPERATION
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
ANALYSIS OF CERTAIN WATER
PROJECTS**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Greater Cooperation with Local Governments in Water Project Analysis Act."

This bill would require the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, when acting as a lead federal agency for analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, NEPA, of certain water projects, to grant "cooperating agency" status to affected subdivisions of state governments if they seek that status.

The bill would apply to analysis of any project involving diversion of water from one river basin to another river basin and to any local government with jurisdiction over any portion of such a project.

Its purpose is to ensure a "seat at the table" for these local governments, to make sure they have the fullest opportunity to provide input regarding the potential impacts of such a project.

It's important to note that this bill would not give any state subdivision a "veto" of the water diversion project. It would only ensure the subdivision's more direct involvement of the analysis of such a project.

While the term "cooperating agency" is not part of the statutory language of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, CEQ, has issued regulations providing for that status in order to implement the NEPA mandate that Federal agencies responsible for preparing NEPA analyses and documentation do so "in cooperation with State and local governments" and other agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise.

As CEQ has noted, "Studies regarding the efficiency, effectiveness, and value of NEPA analyses conclude that stakeholder involvement is important in ensuring decision-makers have the environmental information necessary to make informed and timely decisions efficiently. Cooperating agency status is a major component of agency stakeholder involvement

that neither enlarges nor diminishes the decision-making authority of any agency involved in the NEPA process." (Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies from James Connaughton, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, January 30, 2002).

Having the status of a "cooperating agency" does involve some responsibilities as well as opportunities. But it is understandable that local governments often seek to be granted that status—and, at least with regard to the kind of projects covered by this bill, I think that if a local government seeks it, it should be granted.

I was prompted to introduce this bill by the experience of Grand County, located on the west side of the Continental Divide, in connection with two water diversion projects involving some east slope communities and interests that possess rights to water that originates in and flows through Grand County.

Both of these projects have important implications for communities and activities in the county, so I joined with the county in requesting "cooperating agency" status to the County for both of these projects.

However, due to the discretionary nature of granting such status, in one case the County status was granted, in another it was denied.

One of these projects is the Moffat Collection System Project. The Denver Water Department owns and collects water in various streams that flow west from the flanks of the Continental Divide. The Department then pipes this water through a water tunnel associated with the Moffat Tunnel, which is also a railroad tunnel.

In 2004, the Denver Water Department began an effort to increase the volume of water it collects and sends through this Moffat Collection System. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency on this project and began the necessary NEPA work. And when Grand County requested "cooperating agency" status for this project, the Corps denied their request.

The other project is called the Windy Gap Firming Project. This project also diverts water from Grand County to the eastern slope. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is the prime beneficiary of the water from this project, which is designed to increase the water collection and diversion from Grand County using features such as Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Grand Lake, and the Alva diversion tunnel.

In this case, the lead Federal agency conducting the NEPA work on this project was the Bureau of Reclamation. Again, Grand County sought "cooperating agency" status—and in this case, the Bureau of Reclamation granted the County that status.

This bill responds to this discrepancy by removing the discretion of either the Corps of Engineers or the Bureau of Reclamation to deny a request for "cooperating agency" status by a county or other local government having jurisdiction over any portion of such a project.

In other words, under the bill if a county or other similar subdivision of a state requests "cooperating agency" status regarding a transbasin-diversion water project located within its jurisdiction, the Corps or Bureau, if acting as the lead agency under NEPA, would be required to grant that request.

I believe that it is important for counties and other subdivisions to be involved in the impor-

tant issues affecting them, such as transbasin water diversion projects. I do not believe that allowing them more direct involvement in these issues should be up to the will of the lead Federal agency if they have made a decision to seek such status.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL LEE RUOFF, JR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Michael Lee Ruoff Jr., passed away on July 1, 2007, in Ta'meem, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Michael's wife, Tracy, and two daughters, Danielle and Grace were residing in Schweinfurt, Germany, where Michael's unit was stationed, and had planned to return to their home in Cañon City when Michael returned from the war. Cañon City is also the home of his parents, Mike and Vickie Ruoff.

Born in Ukiah, CA, Michael joined the Army at the age of 18, right out of high school, and was stationed at Fort Carson.

During his 13 years in the Army, Ruoff served in posts around the world as a crew member on M1 Abrams tanks. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

SSG Michael Ruoff's father was a Vietnam veteran, and like his father, Michael was a remarkable soldier, who could always be counted on.

Michael was a devoted man with deep beliefs, who, on July 1, 2007, made the most selfless sacrifice by giving his life to uphold the American ideals of freedom and democracy.

I present my humble gratitude to SSG Michael Lee Ruoff for his service to our country and offer my deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I have reservations about this bill, but I will vote for it today.

It has just been introduced, and we have had only a short time to review it. And those of us who do not serve on the Intelligence Committee have had to depend on news reports and the debate on the floor for information regarding the events that have led to its being considered today.

We have been informed that Admiral McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, has asserted that under current law there is a critical collection gap in our electronic surveillance capabilities, and that the administration