

much of our country's success for the last 200 years. America has long been a center for science and engineering discovery—in the last few decades alone, American ingenuity has transformed our Nation and the world with the personal computer and the internet. Going forward, new innovations will continue to be critical, both in maintaining a solid industrial and economic base and increasing our standard of living.

Federal agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science, play a key role by funding cutting-edge research and training the next generation of scientists and engineers. And nothing will occur without federal investment in STEM research and education—we must continue this strong Federal support to reinforce our global competitiveness and our prosperity.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 2272 and a House conferee, I am proud to say that this legislation will set us in the right direction. It will help strengthen and improve research and education efforts at NSF, NIST, DOE's Office of Science, and the Department of Education, as well as update the High Performance Computing Act of 1991 and recognize the important role that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, plays in STEM education and research. This bill will help to ensure that the United States continues to be a science and technology leader.

H.R. 2272 includes a needed funding increase for overall laboratory research at NIST. As part of the American Competitiveness initiative, NIST will use these funds to expand upon its world-class research, ensuring that the United States will continue to be globally competitive in many industries.

NIST is particularly important to me because one of its key laboratories is located in Boulder, Colorado, in my district. The Boulder labs employ more than 350 people and serve as a science and engineering center for significant research across the Nation. The increase in research funding will help the scientists here expand our knowledge about topics ranging from nanotechnology to material science.

A critical component of this legislation is that it includes funding for construction at these laboratories. NIST's Boulder facilities have contributed to great scientific advances, but they are now over 50 years old and have not been well maintained. Many environmental factors such as the humidity and vibrations from traffic can affect the quality of research performed at NIST. In fiscal year 2007, NIST-Boulder will begin an extension of Building 1 to make room for a Precision Metrology lab. This new facility will allow for incredibly precise control of temperature, relative humidity, air filtration and vibration to advance research on critical technologies, such as atomic clocks, telecommunications, and nanomaterials. To complete this extension, NIST will need further funding in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. H.R. 2272 authorizes this critical funding.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation reauthorizes and gradually increases funding for key technology transfer programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, program and the Technology Innovation Program, TIP, formerly known as the Advanced Technology Program, ATP.

For NSF, H.R. 2272 will continue the effort to double its funding over a 10-year time pe-

riod by authorizing almost \$22 billion for fiscal years 2008–2010. The bill will also encourage the participation of more scientists who have not received NSF funding in the past through 1-year seed grants. By targeting these grants toward these new recipients, the legislation will help support early career researchers and encourage higher-risk research.

As co-chair of the STEM Education Caucus, I am also pleased that H.R. 2272 contains support and funding for NSF's STEM education programs. These programs include the Math and Science Partnerships program and the Noyce Scholarships Program, as well as several STEM education grants that focus on teacher professional development. These programs will help increase the number of well-qualified science and math teachers across the country, both through creating more teachers from current college students and by providing better training for the teachers already in our schools.

The bill will increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, providing nearly \$17 million over fiscal years 2008–2010. The Office of Science funds much of our country's physical science and has helped advance our knowledge about energy, a critical issue of both national and economic security. This increase will keep the Office of Science on track to double its funding over 10 years.

As chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I am pleased that H.R. 2272 contains a number of provisions that highlight the important role that the NASA can and does play in promoting innovation and competitiveness. To that end, the conference report includes language to ensure that NASA will be a full participant in all interagency innovation and competitiveness initiatives as well as STEM initiatives. That's important, because the record shows that past NASA R&D activities have contributed to the vitality of today's economy through NASA's development of a host of innovative technologies. In addition, NASA still has a "brand" that can inspire young people to pursue careers in science and engineering, and we should capitalize on that fact by involving NASA in interagency STEM initiatives whenever appropriate. The conference report does just that, and it also encourages NASA to use its undergraduate student research program to more directly engage college and university students in NASA-related research.

In addition to NASA's basic science and research programs, H.R. 2272 recognizes and endorses the significant role that NASA's aeronautics programs play in ensuring America's competitiveness. However, I think it is clear that investing in aeronautics is critical not only to our competitiveness, but also to our quality of life, the safety and efficiency of our Nation's air transportation system, and our military strength. We need to ensure that NASA continues to maintain its commitment to a meaningful and robust aeronautics R&D program.

Finally, H.R. 2272 notes the role that the International Space Station, ISS, if properly utilized, can play in helping to promote interest in math and science. It thus directs NASA to make concrete plans to implement at least some of the innovative educational projects proposed by an interagency task force that looked at the contributions that the ISS could make to STEM education. In addition, the con-

ference report also directs NASA to come up with a clear plan to identify and support ISS research that can contribute to innovation and competitiveness. As was made clear at a recent hearing held by my subcommittee, NASA needs to do much more than it has been doing to get a good return on the sizeable investment that the Nation has made in the ISS. As was further pointed out at the hearing, the ISS offers a unique capability for research in a number of disciplines that could benefit both NASA as well as our citizens back here on Earth—but NASA needs to step up to the challenge of making sure that research is adequately supported.

I would like to thank House Science and Technology Committee Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman BINGAMAN and Ranking Member DOMENICI, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member McKEON, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman INOUYE and Ranking Member STEVENS, and the other conferees, for their work on this critical bipartisan legislation.

I think we all recognize that investing in basic research and STEM education is critical for a strong economy and national security, and H.R. 2272 will help us improve the critical support for STEM education and research. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SCOTT A.M. OSWELL

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 CWO Scott A.M. Oswell, who passed away on July 4, 2007, in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chief Warrant Officer Oswell died of injuries sustained when his helicopter crashed while trying to save another man's life.

Scott's wife and three children reside in Olympia, Washington, and his parents, Barry and Nancy, reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell enlisted in the Marine Corps following high school, and later joined the Army.

During his time in the Army, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell was selected for flight training, and earned his instructor pilot rating on the Kiowa Warrior helicopter. He was not only a skilled pilot, but also a first-class soldier, who earned several medals throughout his career. A distinguished member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, the selective organization which honors members of the military who demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and care for their soldiers' welfare, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell embodied all of these ideas.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell comes from a military family dedicated to serving this country to ensure the ideals of liberty and democracy, which we hold so dear.

He was a remarkable soldier, a devoted husband and a proud father, who served the Nation he loved sacrificing his life for our security and freedom. On a day when we celebrate the birth of our country, Chief Warrant

Officer Oswell paid the ultimate price, and for that we are eternally grateful.

I thank CWO Scott A.M. Oswell for his service to our country and offer my deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

**LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Although I join with all my colleagues in steadfast opposition to pay discrimination, this ill-advised, over-reaching, and disingenuous overhaul of civil rights law is the wrong approach.

Pay discrimination is not a partisan issue. Pay discrimination strikes at the heart of the American Dream. For more than 40 years, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act has made it illegal for employers to determine an employee's pay-scale based on his or her gender. I whole-heartedly agree and support this law. Every American should be able to work hard, play by the rules, and make a living for his or her family. We do not stand for gender discrimination in the workplace.

This legislation is bad politics rather than good policy. H.R. 2831 was supposedly written to remedy a sad situation for one person—Lilly Ledbetter. She was apparently paid significantly less than her counterparts at Goodyear Tire Company during her tenure there. Decades later Ms. Ledbetter filed a claim of discrimination. Taking her claim through the courts, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on May 29, 2007, that the statute of limitations had unfortunately run out.

Despite saying that H.R. 2831 simply restores prior law, by overturning a Supreme Court ruling against Ms. Ledbetter, in reality, Democrats will gut a decades-old statute of limitations that prevents the filing of "stale" claims and protects against abuse of the legal system.

Current law rightly provides a statute of limitations to file a discrimination claim, up to 300 days after the alleged workplace discrimination occurred. However, under this bill, employees or retirees could sue for pay discrimination years, even decades, after the alleged discrimination.

How can a company defend itself when the accused offenders left the company decades before? The answer is—they can't. And that is exactly the answer desired by the trial lawyers who support this legislation. This legislation will not end pay discrimination, but it will certainly encourage frivolous claims and lawsuits. It is inevitable that under this legislation employees will sue companies for reasons that have little if anything to do with the accused discrimination.

Not only is H.R. 2831 the wrong approach to deal with this serious issue, but this legislation also has the threat of a Presidential veto. A Presidential veto means there is no chance action will be taken on this important issue. If Democrats were serious about dealing with this issue, they would work with the President and Republicans to draft serious legislation

rather than move forward with this political stunt.

Madam Speaker, the issue of pay discrimination is too important to consider this poorly crafted, politically motivated piece of legislation. However, as much as we sympathize with Ms. Ledbetter, H.R. 2831 is bad legislation for our Nation. Let us join together, work in a bipartisan manner, and craft legislation that addresses pay discrimination while not destroying decades-worth of solid employment discrimination law. Until then, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposing this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and the millions of Dominicans around the world in celebrating August 12's 25th Annual Dominican Day Parade.

What was once an expression of pride through Washington Heights has grown to be one of the largest and loudest displays of cultural pride seen along New York's Sixth Avenue, a culmination of a series of events celebrating the Dominican Republic's traditional second day of Independence, El Día de la Restauración or Restoration Day.

It is also a time to remember Dominican achievements, on the island and in the U.S. A time to remind the world that many of the hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university. A time to remind the Nation that from the first big wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent wave in the 1990s, Dominicans have struggled and worked hard to become a part of our national identity. Their contributions can be found in every facet of U.S. life—from baseball stars like Pedro Martinez, David "Big Papi" Ortiz or Alex Rodriguez to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators and social workers.

I can see that hard work in my own congressional district. Dominicans have a zest for grassroots participation, as evidenced by the number of Dominicans, especially women, who are involved in government or as leaders of professional and nonprofit organizations. They are an entrepreneurial group with a keen nose for business and a yearning to be their own boss, as evidenced by the way they have transformed the livery cab, travel, and hair salon industry.

Finally, who can deny the strong desire that Dominicans have for education. Although graduation rates for all Latinos are way too low, more and more Dominicans are choosing to go back to school, get their GED and enroll into the city's university system. This is seen by the fact that 50 percent of are Latino's that are enrolled in CUNY is of Dominican descent. In the number of after-school programs and activities that there are in northern Manhattan and other Dominican barrios.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this day and congratulating founder Nelson Peña and the hundreds of volunteers that help put on this grand display of pride. The success of our current democracy depends on us keeping our doors open to communities that energize our economy and our local neighborhoods. It depends on us remembering that we are a Nation of immigrants and that how we treat our newest Americans will go a long way to how we are treated around the world.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MOON LANDING

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on the recent anniversary of our Nation's first Moon landing, I had the privilege of attending a grand opening ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, honoring the completion of a new facility to house the historic Saturn V rocket. Because it's been a while since we've used this marvel of engineering, it's easy to overlook the fact that this rocket was capable of sending our astronauts to the Moon. Many public and industry partners played a role in restoring the rocket to its original glory, and this new facility will allow everyone to appreciate the incredible historic impact of this wonderful machine. As we continue to advocate for human space exploration and reach out further in the universe, we will always look to the Saturn V as inspiration for our most important continued quest, reaching out into space.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history.

For the first time ever, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department, has been chosen to chair a U.N. committee: the Committee on Program and Coordination, CPC.

This 33 U.N. member body provides an important role to the functioning of the U.N., as it approves the work plan for all U.N. agencies and bodies.

Mr. Adam is highly qualified to represent his country at the U.N. He was former director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department and had been at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1990. From 1998–2002, he was a Counselor at the Israeli delegation to the U.N. Since 2004, he served as the director of the U.N. Political Affairs Department, in the Division for the United Nations and International Organizations. Last