

effectively executes and manages its duties. Since its inception, there has been an understandable focus on the protection of the United States against acts of terror. However, as demonstrated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I do not believe that there has been an adequate focus on recovering from the aftermath of a catastrophic incident by the Department. I believe that the extension of TRIA demonstrates our nation's necessary commitment to planning for the recovery and resumption of economic activity following an act of terrorism. Whereas we can never take our eyes off of protection and prevention, we must show a commitment to resiliency in the wake of an incident. This bill will help our nation begin its climb back to normality should we ever again be struck on our shores by terrorists.

Furthermore, the revision and extension of TRIA represents a vital element of homeland security, particularly in its protection of critical infrastructure: the effective cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Committee on Homeland Security has focused extensively on this necessary partnership and the homeland security solutions that can be achieved by both sectors working together. This necessary partnership will be essential to the successful stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis, should one occur.

Last year, I expressed my concern with the TRIA not requiring insurers to offer coverage from acts of nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological (NBCR) terrorism. Studies by numerous entities concluded that the risk of NBCR terrorism is essentially uninsurable unless there is a Federal government backstop. I am pleased that this legislation includes acts of NBCR terrorism in TRIA and, therefore, provides that federal backstop. This provision will hopefully encourage efforts by the insurance industry while providing it with the necessary support that it needs.

I am pleased that the bill incorporates the Secretary of DHS, especially relating to the certification of NBCR terrorism. It says that where a certified act of terrorism is carried out by means of an NBCR weapon or instrumentality, the Secretary of the Treasury will certify that act as an act of NBCR terrorism. Importantly, if a certified act of terrorism involves any other "weapon or instrumentality," then the Secretary of the Treasury will consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security, among other officials, to determine whether the act of terrorism meets the definition of NBCR terrorism, as defined by the bill. This language recognizes the ever-changing threat we face as well as the expertise and sophistication of DHS.

It is important that this extension of TRIA will be for 15 years. This long-term extension will enhance economic stability—for example, by bringing more stability to the real estate and construction industries so that they can move forward with large-scale building projects in areas considered at high risk for terrorism. After all, TRIA was enacted in 2002 in an attempt to stabilize the economy that was badly disrupted by the events of 9/11 and to spur commercial development, as well as to prevent an industry-wide catastrophe in the event of another terrorist attack. This 15-year extension will create the predictability and confidence that the private sector needs to make investments that help our national economy.

This legislation will help our country and its industry spur economic development and, importantly, will provide the necessary economic security in the aftermath of a terrorist event to get our country moving as quickly as possible.

In closing, let me thank my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee for their leadership on this legislation, especially my colleagues Chairman FRANK as well as Representative CAROLYN MALONEY of New York.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ALUN
HOWELLS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice of Army Specialist Alun R. Howells of Parlin, Colorado.

On August 13, Specialist Howells died from wounds he suffered while on a combat mission in Baghdad. Specialist Howells was assigned to E Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Driven by his passion for the outdoors, Alun Howells spent much of his life exploring Colorado's Rocky Mountain terrain. After joining the Army in 2006, he turned his passion toward a distinguished military career. Among his numerous honors, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service to our country.

Alun Howells will be missed by those who knew and loved him, and our hearts go out to his family and friends.

Thank you for this opportunity to recognize and honor one of Colorado's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18, 2007 and missed rollcall votes 870, 871, and 872. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the three measures.

EXPANDING AMERICAN
HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the

Expanding American Homeownership Act and commend the Democratic leadership, Chairman FRANK, and Chairman WATERS for their commitment to increasing access to affordable housing.

Our country is currently in the middle of a subprime mortgage crisis. In my congressional district alone, there are 796 homes involved in foreclosure right now. The University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs report, Subprime Lending and Foreclosure in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, speculates that the problem of foreclosures starts with predatory lending practices that are aimed at removing equity from homes through refinancing a home multiple times.

H.R. 1852 takes an important step to prevent American families from ever having to turn to a predatory lender by providing them with a reliable source for affordable mortgage loans. This legislation revitalizes and reforms the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, enabling it to serve more subprime borrowers, offer refinancing to families struggling to make mortgage payments, and create additional affordable rental housing.

This legislation also authorizes more than double the current funding level for housing counseling to help subprime home buyers, higher risk borrowers who fall behind on their mortgage payments, and those who need additional guidance in establishing a plan for purchasing their home.

We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing. For this reason, the Expanding American Homeownership Act authorizes up to \$300 million a year for an affordable housing trust fund, which will be financed by excess profits, resulting from the expansion of FHA's loan offerings.

H.R. 1852 enables the FHA to preserve and expand its mission of helping potential first-time home buyers obtain affordable mortgages. I urge my colleagues to join me in helping more families achieve the American dream of home ownership by voting for this bill.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM
W. SMITH, III

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Reverend William W. Smith, III, of Minnesota, a selfless servant who was committed to his faith, family and the struggle for civil rights and social justice. While I regret to report the recent passing of Rev. Smith at the age of 69, I am grateful for his spirit of equality and inclusiveness which will continue to live on in the city of Minneapolis and beyond.

Rev. Smith's relationship with Minneapolis began over 50 years ago when he was stationed in the city while serving as an airman in the United States Air Force. Following his tour of duty, Smith returned to Minneapolis, where he took on the important work of mentoring and empowering children, youth, families and the elderly as a staffer at the Phillis Wheatley Community Center. Smith would later go on to serve as a leader at the Twin Cities Opportunities Industrial Center.

Rev. Smith was a visionary who knew that Minneapolis could become a place of equal opportunity for all people regardless of racial or ethnic differences. During the turbulent 1960s, Smith worked vigorously to advance the cause of the civil rights movement in Minneapolis. He served as a local facilitator working with community leaders to set into action the teachings of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Smith's efforts ultimately contributed to the creation of human rights commissions in Minneapolis and throughout the state of Minnesota. Smith also helped guide local social action groups such as the Minneapolis Urban League and the Black Unity and Futurism Youth Organization of Minneapolis.

Recognizing the important role which unions play in protecting workers rights, Smith fought vigorously to gain union membership for African American workers. Once that battle was won, Smith accepted the challenge of becoming a union organizer, working for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO in New Orleans, Atlanta and Tulsa.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Rev. Smith: his daughter, his sons, former wife, and the community he worked for, the community he loved. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a man who gave so much of himself to Minneapolis yet demanded so little in return. Reverend Smith, today we thank you.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3580, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. This bill necessarily reauthorizes the Prescription Drug User Fee Program, the Medical Device User Fee Program, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA, authority to grant an additional 6 months marketing exclusivity to a manufacturer of a drug in return for FDA requested pediatric use, for 5 years, through 2012. The act also addresses a variety of other issues of importance to the FDA and to the Nation regarding pediatric medical device safety and improvement, research equity, and pharmaceuticals, a foundation for the FDA, better ways to deal with potential conflicts of interest, clinical trial databases, and measures to increase the post-market safety of drugs. All of these issues are important, but I believe that one of the most important sections of the bill regards additional steps to ensure the safety of our Nation's food.

Mr. Speaker, today we live in a global community, exchanging goods and services with countries around the world. Every country is different, and possesses differing standards, quality assurance, public health infrastructures, safety testing capacity, and desire and ability to secure shipments and distribution systems. Additionally, each must deal with a unique set of threats—naturally caused and intentionally generated. Much of the food on America's dinner tables comes from beyond our borders, and as we all know, despite the

best efforts of a small number of dedicated personnel, much of that food comes into the country without being inspected. Also, whether the food comes from outside or inside the United States, the distribution systems are largely unsecured. This legislation is a tremendous step forward—increasing inspections, improving research, and giving FDA the necessary authorities to inspect, trace, quarantine, and recall certain imported food to ensure safety.

Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations have indicated the desire to use agroterrorism means to attack our food supply. There is also increasing evidence to indicate that these organizations have been recruiting personnel with the scientific and technical know-how to accomplish these means. Additionally, over the past few decades, we have seen cases in the United States of intentional tampering of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and controlled substances, resulting in illness and death throughout the country.

As the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, the Committee on Homeland Security works diligently to ensure that DHS effectively executes and manages its duties, and where appropriate, ensures that DHS works collaboratively with other Federal agencies. DHS, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement, often partners with FDA to investigate food and drug tampering and contamination cases. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the United States Coast Guard, also have roles in interdicting and inspecting contaminated shipments as they cross borders and seas into the country. I am pleased that this legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, HHS, to notify the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security when an HHS entity believes food has been adulterated. Information-sharing is critical to effective, timely response to threats and a more secure homeland.

This legislation addresses a number of important aspects regarding food and drug safety and security. Actions we take now to better secure our food and drugs against contamination, adulteration, and terrorism will add to our overall homeland and transnational security.

I encourage my colleagues to pass this legislation with strong bipartisan support.

COMMENDING THE TREMENDOUS
PUBLIC SERVICE OF EAST
BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOLS
STUDENT JOEY RIZZOLO

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend a seventh grade student at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, NJ, for demonstrating a tremendous commitment to his community with exuberance and spirit. At his tender young age, Joey Rizzolo has already offered more of an example of public service for America than many adults.

Under the tutelage of their teacher, Jane Cosco, Joey Rizzolo and his fellow students take part in a service-learning project called Operation Goody Bag. For the past 3 years,

students at East Brook Middle School have decorated lunch bags; stuffed them with letters, poems, candy, and other such items; and shipped them to local first responders and service members overseas. Fifty thousand packages have been shipped already and each one is sure to bring a smile to the face of its recipient.

As an outgrowth of that effort, Operation Goody Bag decided to participate in the Department of Defense's America Supports You program and the annual Freedom Walk. This year, Joey, as the Paramus Freedom Walk chairman and his fellow students took to the streets with about 400 local citizens to show their support for the men and women serving in the military and for their families.

I was proud to join Joey and his fellow students for this special event. From their homes in Paramus, these students had a front row seat to the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11. Many of their family members and neighbors were there at the World Trade Center that day or were amongst the first responders who rushed into Manhattan to help in the hours and days and weeks that followed. These students approach their work with poise and grace, dedication and commitment. And Joey Rizzolo organized and led this first annual walk as if he'd been doing it for a lifetime.

It was an honor to stand with these students earlier this month to commemorate the sixth anniversary of September 11 and it is an honor to represent these students, their teacher, and their families in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JASON
LAFLEUR

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice of CPL Jason K. LaFleur of Ignacio, Colorado.

On August 4th, Corporal LaFleur was killed while on patrol during combat operations south of Baghdad. Corporal LaFleur was a member of the Army's 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Ft. Richardson, Alaska.

Jason LaFleur was an accomplished scholar, athlete, and musician. His family and friends watched with pride as his list of accomplishments grew during his service in the United States Army.

Corporal LaFleur earned many of the Army's distinguished honors, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. In doing so, he has earned the respect not only of his community, but of a proud State and a grateful Nation as well.

Thank you for this opportunity to recognize and honor one of Colorado's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 17, 2007