

before the House of Representatives voted on the bill. Additionally, the proposal authorizes a one-month waiting period for a motorized scooter even if a doctor determined the scooter was medically necessary, and reduces the amount of time that the government would rent oxygen equipment to seniors from 36 months to only 13 months. Finally, the CHAMP Act, in its current form, provides free healthcare to illegal immigrants. This complete disregard for existing law will inevitably aggravate the existing illegal immigration problem.

This legislation was an erratic attempt to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance program while creating an open-ended entitlement program that moves us further away from providing benefits to those most in need.

VALLEY TOWNSHIP CHIEF OF
POLICE JOE FRIEL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Valley Township Chief of Police Joe Friel, a dedicated law enforcement officer who epitomizes honor and valor. Chief Friel is a graduate of the Downingtown Area School District, who then went on to attend the Delaware County Municipal Police Academy. He started his police career in Royersford Borough in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a part-time police officer, and then eventually moved to western Chester County. He has worked for the Caln Township Police Department, Parkesburg Borough Police Department and Sadsbury Township Police Department, before taking a part-time job with the Valley Township Bureau of Police in 1989. He was eventually hired full-time in 1990 and, in 2000, he obtained the rank of Sergeant. Following 17 years of service, the young officer, who "was just happy to be a police officer," is now called Chief Friel and is in charge of nine other officers. He is married to Annette Friel and they have two children, Joe Jr. and Brittany.

In addition to Chief Friel's duties as a police officer, he was also a D.A.R.E. officer for six years, allowing him to work closely with students and schools in an effort to keep them safe. Chief Friel has received four outstanding service awards, two from the Valley Township Bureau of Police and two from the Coatesville Area School District for his service as a D.A.R.E. officer. Chief Friel is a certified field-training officer for the Bureau of Police and has extensive training in domestic violence investigation.

During his distinguished career, he was given a commendation for the apprehension of a subject that confronted police with two fully-loaded shotguns following a violent domestic dispute, as well as a commendation from the Westwood Fire Department for helping a man who was injured in an explosion.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Chief Friel worked for Hope Ambulance Service and was a member of the patient recovery operation team, which provided air transports for sick or injured persons. He was a firefighter with the East Brandywine Fire Company and was an Emergency Medical Technician.

Chief Friel continues to believe that community policing is the foundation for a successful police team. He promotes teamwork as the key to maintaining a strong police force and believes that being respectful and fair is what has made him such a successful police officer.

In recognition for all of Chief Friel's accomplishments and leadership, the Pennsylvania American Legion recently named him Pennsylvania Law Officer of the Year. This award is a testament to the example Chief Friel presents to other brave men and women of law enforcement, as well as a reflection of the great people he has worked with over the years. I know all my colleagues join me today in commending Chief Friel for his exemplary service and reward of accomplishment and we honor him for his ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of the residents of Valley Township and Chester County, Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATTY
ARISMENDEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Arismendez of Bakersfield, California, the recipient of the National Association of Letter Carriers Heroes of the Year Award on behalf of the Western Region. This award is to honor Letter Carriers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

During her 17 years with the United States Postal Service, Patty worked her way up to a Letter Carrier. She spent the last 10 years working at Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Bakersfield, California.

Today we honor Patty Arismendez for her heroic action. On October 14, 2006, Patty saw a toddler wandering into the middle of the street. She used her vehicle to block the traffic in this busy intersection and jumped out to save the toddler. After Patty rescued the child, she searched for her family and eventually reunited them.

Patty saved the toddler from being hit by a car or kidnapped. We recognize her bravery and appreciate her devotion to her community. Patty Arismendez is an honest, compassionate woman. I wish her continued success and good luck in all of her future endeavors.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE RE-
VISION AND EXTENSION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2761) to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2761, which revises and extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) for 15 years. I commend

Chairman FRANK and Congressman CAPUANO for their fine work in shepherding this critical legislation to the House floor. This act reminds us that the true measure of our homeland's preparedness against terrorist attack is our ability to prepare for such an attack comprehensively and that includes the insurance industry which is an essential part of our economic landscape.

Mr. Chairman, the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, tested our Nation's ability to defend itself in many ways. Along with the human and emotional toll these events took on all Americans, we noticed that not only our Government but also our private industries were not sufficiently prepared to deal with the implications of a terrorist attack. Terrorist activity since September 11, 2001, has come to prove that our enemies are becoming more agile and technologically sophisticated. There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists are targeting not only our fellow citizens but also our critical infrastructure including our financial services sector, since they are determined to undermine the United States in the most fundamental of ways.

History has shown that al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct their efforts against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm. According to a RAND policy brief, "there is reason to believe that al Qaeda is interested in continuing its efforts to disrupt the fiscal base of the United States by attacking its borders." If al Qaeda and others are determined to strike our financial targets, public policymakers need to examine possible financial mechanisms to mitigate these effects.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2761 is a critical and timely legislative response to the fact that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their policies. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies. As a result, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act as a 3-year temporary program in 2002. The act created a Federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses. In 2005, the measure was extended until 2007. TRIA is now set to expire at the end of this year, unless we today extend the law.

Since its enactment, TRIA has ensured the availability of affordable terrorism risk insurance in the marketplace and thereby fostered continued urban development and real estate development in the United States. While the TRIA program has successfully kept terrorism insurance affordable, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets' most recent report concluded that a private market for terrorism reinsurance is virtually nonexistent—especially with regard to nuclear, biological chemical and radiological (NBCR) acts of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 2761 because it provides federal backstop for private terrorism insurance. One of the strongest features of the bill is that it comes at no cost to the American taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack.

The security of our country can not be ensured unless we make certain that the U.S. Government works hand-in-hand with the private sector to confront terrorist threats. H.R. 2761 exemplifies this idea.

The bill before us is based on the idea that it is in the best interest of our country that the

Federal Government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I am also in support of this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of 2 critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or States. I support the bill because it also exemplifies the critical idea that the risk from such attacks should be dealt with at the national level. H.R. 2761 should be seen as part of our broader efforts to confront and defeat the terrorist enemy.

No legislative initiative, especially in such a critical field related to the security of our country, can become really effective unless it enjoys the support of the private industry it affects.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that H.R. 2761 is broadly supported by insurance companies, insurance agents and brokers, policyholders, commercial developers, and construction companies.

Another important provision in the bill is that it extends TRIA to cover both foreign and domestic terrorism. Currently, it covers only foreign terrorism. It also adds group life insurance to the types of insurance for which terrorism insurance coverage must be made available by insurers. It also sets the "trigger" level—the size of an attack at which the Federal Government would provide aid to insurers—at \$50 million. Current law (P.L. 109–44), enacted in 2005, sets the level at \$50 million in 2006 and \$100 million in 2007. Yet another strong feature of the bill is it requires continuation of studies of the development of a private market for terrorism and risk insurance.

Mr. Chairman, I support the passage of H.R. 2761 and call on my colleagues to do likewise because I strongly believe that it will strengthen our Nation's efforts to confront the terrorist threat in a more comprehensive way and will provide long-term stability for critical American industries.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SUSAN A. DICKEY, WARREN COUNTY SURROGATE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening, Susan A. Dickey, who has served as elected Surrogate for the past seven years, will be honored for her record of dedicated service to the people of Warren County, New Jersey. I join my friends and neighbors in commending Susan for her commitment to this office.

The constitutional office of Surrogate is not a glamorous one. There aren't a lot of ribbon cuttings and photo ops to do. There aren't many big ticket items that make it to the front pages of the local papers. But, there are few elected offices that can have a greater impact

on individual lives. We come to seek the aid of the Surrogate and her office when we are in the midst of issues involving trusts, wills, estates, and probate. Our visits to the Surrogate's office are rarely on happy occasions, often following loss of a loved one. And, though winding through the confusing red tape of probate law is just about the last thing we want to do under those circumstances, Susan Dickey and her staff have done all in their power to ease the difficult burden.

Susan has sought to computerize estate processing, to make information and forms available online, and to simplify the process. She has made her office more accessible to those who are handicapped, ill, or homebound. And, she has been working with the County Office on Aging to develop a free-will program for qualified seniors—a program she first introduced as a Warren County Freeholder before she was elected to the Surrogate's Office.

Susan Dickey is a true public servant, and I commend her for her work and for the example she provides.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLY P. HOWARD ON BEING NAMED NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, Molly Parish Howard, Principal of Jefferson County High School in Louisville, Georgia, was named National High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I had the privilege of attending her recognition ceremony and was moved by her dedication to, and passion for, her students, her school and her community.

Dr. Howard has devoted the past 30 years of her life to the children of Jefferson County, Georgia. In one way or another, she's been walking the halls of the public schools in that area nearly all her life. Dr. Howard began her own education in the schools of Jefferson County. Just three years after her graduation from Wrens High School she returned to become one of the school system's first special education teachers.

Dr. Howard has been serving as Principal of the Jefferson County High School since 1995. When she became principal, she made it her policy that every child in her high school would receive a college preparatory education. Even with an increasingly challenging curriculum, nearly every indicator of the success of a high school has improved since Dr. Howard took that job.

Dr. Howard represents what is best about our best schools. What's more important, she brings out the best in her faculty and staff, her students, and their families. She uses innovation and creativity to inspire excellence in her teachers; she is a conscientious member of her community; and she is a friend, a mentor, and a good example to her students. She is the kind of person I'm grateful to have working on the front lines of our nation's future. I'm proud to represent her and her school, and I congratulate her on this well deserved achievement.

H.R. 1495—THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. This important legislation provides overdue authorization for hundreds of critical water projects throughout the United States including several in my district, the Fourth Congressional District of Florida. The bill authorizes 900 flood-control, navigation and environmental projects managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and will authorize \$21 billion dollars. Many of these projects are critical to the safety of our commercial and recreational ship traffic as they navigate inland waterways. I applaud the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for completing this imperative legislation.

WAGONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company in Chester County, PA which will dedicate its new facility and celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, September 22, 2007. This fire company traces its history back to 1947 when it was housed in a single-bay fire station located on Wagontown Road and Route 340.

The original fire station was replaced in 1954 with a larger building located at 416 West Kings Highway with direct access to Route 340. It was designed and built with room for additional equipment that would be needed as the community grew. It was not only used to house the fire apparatus, but also as a meeting, banquet and fundraising facility.

In 1995, the Company decided that in order to keep up with the continuing growth in West Caln and West Brandywine Townships, an additional facility was needed. The small, single-station fire company that started in 1947 had grown into a fully operational fire and rescue company. The fleet at that time consisted of five vehicles. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 23, 2005, with site preparation and building construction beginning shortly thereafter. The building of five bays, offices and a three-hundred seat community banquet facility was then completed and the Company was able to occupy and begin working out of the new facility in September of 2006.

Over the past sixty years, the Wagontown fleet has grown to seven apparatus and the Company is led by the tireless work of Chief Jeff Benach. The Company is 100% volunteer and has been supported by donations from the community and with numerous fundraisers. The Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company has thrived due to the countless sacrifices and endless dedication of the many men and women who volunteer to support this local