

piece of legislation, which I am proud to support.

As we have heard today, this legislation provides the foundation for the transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System. This summer, as airline passengers faced unprecedented delays, we better understand the heightened importance of completing Next Gen. With 1 billion annual passengers expected by 2015, the transition from a radar-based system to satellite navigation is essential to maintain the strength of the aviation industry and provide our constituents with predictable flying conditions.

This bill allows an historic level of funding in order to prepare our Nation's airspace for the future.

I would also like to thank the Chairman for including, at my request, Seniority List Integration language in the Manager's Amendment. Nearly 7 years ago, American Airlines bought TWA—a great airline which had a long history of service in my home State of Missouri. Without any labor protections to look after their interests, TWA employees were unfairly stapled to the bottom of the combined work groups' seniority lists. As many airlines were forced to downsize in the aftermath of September 11th, these TWA employees, many with decades of service, lost their jobs as more junior American Airlines employees were retained. The result was the furlough of thousands of my constituents.

Given this unfortunate situation, it is appropriate that this bill provide long-needed labor protections ensure that a similar situation does not happen in the future. By providing for "fair and equitable" integration of seniority lists, we protect the employees of the purchased airline—without entering Congress into the complicated issue of how seniority should be defined.

This language means that future airline mergers will not result in the unfair treatment of one labor group.

H.R. 2881 represents a bi-partisan agreement to maintain the strength of our Nation's aviation industry. I urge support for the Rule and for the underlying bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 891 regarding "Recognition of Hunters across the U.S." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a staunch supporter of United States efforts to curb nuclear weapons proliferation, I am deeply concerned about Iran's nuclear program and its potential

to lead to weapons development. This is especially troubling in light of the hateful and unfounded comments of Iran's President Amadenajad towards Israel, our friend and partner in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 1400 today because it is a fatally flawed approach to preventing Iran from acquiring such weapons out of its nuclear program. Instead, we should be adopting a comprehensive strategy to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, for only that will work. A comprehensive strategy includes diplomacy and incentives for Iran, and not just harsher sanctions alone, as this bill provides.

Simply put: we need a carrots and sticks approach to this problem.

Further, I believe that passage of this bill will needlessly complicate relations with the several of the nations with which we must work if the world community is to dissuade Iran from weaponizing its nuclear program, thereby rendering our non-proliferation efforts that much less effective.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to be successful in this critical effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, I believe we must put diplomacy and a policy of constructive engagement at the forefront of comprehensive efforts. This bill, instead, I fear begins a not so long march down the road of further confrontation in an already enflamed region.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ERIC D. COTTRELL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Eric D. Cottrell. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who died in service to his country.

Eric, born January 25, 1986, graduated from Rubidoux High School. Eric, an Army Medic, was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. Cottrell, who joined the Army in 2004, was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Unit Commendation and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Staff Sergeant Cottrell was killed by a roadside bomb on August 13, 2007, in Qayyarah, Iraq.

In reading about Eric's life I was impressed by his devotion to his fellow soldiers. He had clearly earned the respect of his fellow soldiers because they called him "Doc." Eric was right there on the front lines, ready to help his brothers-in-arms who had been hurt. The recent tribute to Eric's life and sacrifice at Fort Bliss, Texas demonstrated Eric's impact on his fellow soldiers and how deeply he will be missed.

Staff Sergeant Cottrell is survived by his parents, Alan Waters and Mannie Cottrell of Riverside, California; his wife, Sherri Cottrell of El Paso, Texas; two daughters: Megan Cottrell and Brandy Cottrell, both of Pittsview, Alabama; two sons: James Christensen and Eric Cottrell, both of Pittsview, Alabama; and two

brothers: Norris Alan Waters of Pennsylvania and Christopher Waters of Hawaii.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Eric, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day Eric's family had to lay him to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Staff Sergeant Cottrell's wife, sons, daughters, mother, father, brothers and all his relatives have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that Eric, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Texas' mothers have sent more sons and daughters overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom than any other state in America. We have endured more casualties than any other state but one.

The American Gold Star Mothers in Texas and throughout this great nation have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a child who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war. Their sons and daughters served their country honorably and gave what Lincoln called "last full measure of devotion."

To these soldiers, we are grateful and humbled by their sacrifice. And to the Gold Star Mothers who have lost children our thoughts and prayers are with you always.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OVARIAN CANCER BIOMARKER RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly present the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague, Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN.

Detecting this cancer early is the key to preventing deaths from this disease. In cases where ovarian cancer detection happens before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 93 percent of women survive longer than five years. When diagnosed in the advanced stages, the chance of five-year survival drops

to about 30 percent. Currently, early stage diagnosis occurs in only 20 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. Ovarian cancer mortality could be reduced dramatically if a majority of the women affected with ovarian cancer were diagnosed at an early stage. Unfortunately, there is no widely accepted or effective screening test for ovarian cancer currently available and it is difficult to diagnose because symptoms are easily confused with other diseases.

The Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007 would authorize the National Cancer Institute to make grants to public or non-profit entities to establish research centers focused on ovarian cancer biomarkers. Biomarkers are biochemical features within the body that may be used to determine the presence and extent of and/or predict response to therapy and ultimate prognosis. This Act also establishes a national clinical trial that will enroll at-risk women in a study to determine the clinical utility of using these validated ovarian cancer biomarkers.

A former staff member of mine, Grace Warren, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer a few years ago. She has been a champion for this cause—I draw strength from her strength and faith from her faith on how she lives with and battles with this disease everyday. We must continue to raise awareness of the symptoms. Women with common symptoms such as abdominal pressure, nausea, indigestion, unusual fatigue, and unexplained weight gain or loss should not ignore these warning signs. For Grace and all the other women who fight this disease, I say to you that I will keep fighting, too, until we find a cure.

We encourage you to join with us, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in supporting the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Science Museum of Minnesota on its Centennial Anniversary. As its mission states, during its 100 year history, the Science Museum has offered innovative ways allow learners of all ages to experience their changing world through science.

The Science Museum of Minnesota is deeply ingrained in our state's history. Its creation was the result of a strong desire among early St. Paul businessmen to foster intellectual and scientific growth in Minnesota's capital city. The St. Paul Institute of Science and Letters was born in 1907, later to become the Science Museum of Minnesota. The original exhibits began when thousands of scientific specimens and valuable collections were offered as gifts, including a mummy shipped from Egypt by a vacationing St. Paul couple. Since then, the collection has been expanded to include more than 1.75 million objects, including a beloved

Triceratops—one of only four mounted examples anywhere in the world. Visitors are also able to climb aboard an authentic Mississippi River towboat that moved barges on the river.

The museum was an early innovator in the use of live theater as an interpretive tool and continues to be a training ground for other museums wishing to include live programming. Today from its home on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, the Science Museum of Minnesota it is a world-renowned institution of scientific exploration. The museum's interactive exhibits, traveling exhibitions and Omnitheater films are a major draw for visitors. Permanent galleries such as Dinosaurs and Fossils and the Human Body, and touring exhibits such as Body Worlds and A Day in Pompeii educate and attract more than one million people per year who are eager to learn about our scientific world.

The museum provides innovative staff development programs for teachers throughout the region and science education outreach programs for K-12 classrooms. Programs serving schools directly reached 262,055 students and 1,540 teachers in Minnesota last year, taking science beyond the four walls of the museum and into the four corners of the state. Innovation extends to the use of new technologies to educate visitors about science. The museum's research and collections division and St. Croix Watershed Research Station provide significant ongoing scientific research in the areas of anthropology, paleontology, biology, and environmental sciences.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Science Museum of Minnesota for its celebration of its 100 years of service to the community. The Science Museum of Minnesota provides an exhilarating learning experience to all learners, and serves as a model of an exceptional educational facility.

COUNTRIES HIT BY HURRICANES FELIX, DEAN, AND HENRIETTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 642, expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette. I would like to thank my friend, Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS, for bringing this resolution to the House floor.

When Hurricane Dean, a category five hurricane, made landfall in Mexico's Yucatan in August, people around the world were stunned and saddened by the damage that massive storm left in its wake. The third strongest Atlantic hurricane ever at landfall, Dean ripped through Mexico, causing at least 42 deaths and \$1.9 billion in damage.

After Hurricane Dean, the region braced itself as Hurricane Felix gathered strength off the coast of Central America weeks later. Felix touched down between Nicaragua and Honduras on September 1, 2007 wreaking havoc and causing at least 122 deaths. Also on September 1st, Hurricane Henriette slammed into Mexico's Baja, the first time since 1949 that

two Atlantic and Pacific hurricanes hit land on the same day.

In the wake of these massive and destructive storms, Congress must continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the regions affected. As the effects of the hurricanes continue to unfold and we must also encourage concerned U.S. citizens to donate their time and funds to hurricane relief.

After Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America in 1999, I traveled to the Honduran town of Marcovia to help CARE bring relief to the thousands of affected families there. Hurricane Mitch killed more than 10,000 people, left hundreds of thousands homeless, and inflicted billions of dollars in economic losses throughout Central America.

I urge my colleagues in Congress and the American people to reach out to the countries, communities and individuals affected by Hurricanes Dean, Felix and Henriette the way we reached out to the survivors of Hurricane Mitch.

I am proud to support H. Res. 642 and I hope all of my colleagues will lend it their support.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY FORMER NEW JERSEY STATE SENATOR BATEMAN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and commend former New Jersey State, Senator Raymond H. Bateman on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Senator Bateman achieved an exemplary record of public service to Somerset County and the State of New Jersey. He served with distinction in the New Jersey Legislature for 19 years, including being elected by his colleagues as Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the New Jersey Assembly and New Jersey State Senate, and for three terms as President of the Senate. Senator Bateman also served as Acting Governor of New Jersey for more than 100 days and was the Republican Party nominee for Governor in 1977.

Senator Bateman's career reminds us all that true public service does not take partisanship into consideration. During his tenure in the state legislature, Senator Bateman developed close personal and professional relationships with former Governors Meyner, Hughes, Cahill and Byrne to solve many of the challenges of the day. Senator Bateman never cared from which side of the aisle an idea originated; he cared only that it was a good idea.

As a result, Senator Bateman's influence and wisdom are woven into the history of New Jersey. A champion of public education, Senator Bateman authored "The Bateman Act," landmark legislation that provided for the first time a school funding formula to meet the State Constitution's requirement that every child in New Jersey receive a thorough and efficient education. He also authored legislation creating the community college system in New Jersey.

Those who have watched a Bruce Springsteen concert or cheered for the Giants,