

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this measure and I applaud the dedicated leadership that has brought this legislation to the floor today.

Particular attention should be given to the measures included in H.R. 2095—and in the manager's amendment also under consideration—that address the unique safety concerns associated with railroad tunnels and bridges.

On July 18, 2001, a CSX train traveling through the Howard Street Tunnel in my district in Baltimore derailed, puncturing several tank cars and igniting a flammable liquid that created a massive fire.

Following that terrible accident, I joined Chairman OBERSTAR in requesting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to undertake a study on railroad tunnel and bridge safety. This study was released on August 30th of this year.

In brief, the study found that Class I railroads own and maintain more than 61,000 bridges and more than 800 tunnels—while Class II railroads own and maintain more than 15,000 bridges. These are staggering numbers that clearly demonstrate how important the safety of these pieces of infrastructure is to the operation of our Nation's rail network.

The legislation and manager's amendment before us today address concerns raised both in the GAO report and in the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the Howard Street Tunnel fire.

Section 609 of the underlying bill, which I offered as an amendment during the Committee markup of this legislation, is intended to ensure that the first responders called to incidents in rail tunnels have all of the information they need to provide an effective response to the situation they encounter.

Section 609 responds directly to the NTSB's findings in its investigation of the Howard Street Tunnel fire that Baltimore City first responders did not have adequate information on hazardous discharge procedures in the Tunnel or on ingress and egress pathways into and out of the Tunnel.

To ensure that such a situation is never repeated, Section 609 requires railroads to make available to local jurisdictions information on rail tunnel ingress and egress pathways and on the types of cargoes transported through long tunnels or tunnels through which more than 5 passenger trains per day or more than 500 carloads of toxic inhalation materials per year are moved.

The manager's amendment before us responds directly to the findings of the recent GAO report by imposing significant new safety requirements on railroads regarding the assessment of bridge weight bearing capacity and bridge inspection procedures.

Additionally, it imposes new requirements on the review of bridge inspection data by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Through these measures, the manager's amendment seeks to create a comprehensive safety regime for railroad bridges—which is long overdue.

The measures in H.R. 2095 on railroad tunnels and bridges are just two of the many safety improvements that this bill would make in the operation of our Nation's railroad network—but are examples of how this bill responds directly to the safety concerns that have been identified since the last reauthorization of the Federal Railroad Administration.

I am confident that enactment of H.R. 2095 will significantly improve the safety of rail operations in the United States. I again thank Chairman OBERSTAR—and Chairwoman BROWN—for their work on this measure and I urge its passage.

CELEBRATING THE WORLD-CLASS PIEROGIES OF CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform Congress what so many people in my district have known for years—that Clifton, New Jersey is indeed a pierogi lover's heaven.

Clifton has a rich history of Eastern European ancestry, and this delicacy is indeed one of the many fine contributions made by those of that region in the world.

And in the Eighth District of New Jersey—one of the most diverse in the country—people from all cultures and walks of life can agree that the city of Clifton has some of the finest pierogies in America.

Indeed, the pierogi has reached almost mythical status in Clifton. It is sold in restaurants and delis, churches and schools. One would be hard pressed to find the dish absent from a single menu in the city.

The people of Clifton possess a genuine love for the pierogi, more so than anywhere else I have seen, whether stuffed with the traditional potato and cheese, or more exotic fillings, like papayas and blueberries.

Showing their true dedication, last month the City Council of Clifton decreed that every day of the year in Clifton is now officially "Pierogi Day."

And it has now come to my attention that Clifton is one of five cities vying for the title of pierogi capital of the Nation. The public can vote online at www.pierogypocket.com. I could not recommend Clifton more strongly.

In the Eighth District, we are proud of the strong cultural ties that each of us has to our heritage. The City of Clifton's love for the pierogi truly embodies this spirit.

Clifton desires neither the fame nor fortune that would come with being named pierogi capital of the world. They only seek to confirm the obvious. The title would be the sour cream and fried onions on top.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND CANON RICHARD LIVINGSTON MARQUESS-BARRY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry, Pastor of the Historic Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church in Miami, Florida.

A native of Miami, Florida, Reverend Barry obtained his early education from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He is a proud

graduate of Miami Northwestern Sr. High School Class of 1958 where his portrait still hangs in the school's Hall of Fame. He furthered his education at Saint Augustine's College, in Raleigh, North Carolina and went on to get his Doctor of Human Letters degree from Barbar-Scotia College, Concord, North Carolina in 1995.

Married to Virla Rolle Barry, Reverend Barry has been blessed in this holy matrimony for over 40 years. Also blessed to this union is one daughter Diana, who is married to Ronald Frazier, II, and two grandsons Richard and Ronald.

This visionary of a pastor became God's shepherd par excellence under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, as he continues to guide his Congregation. He has led Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to encourage the members not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and community pride.

Reverend Barry has dedicated his life to making the lives of those around him better. Further demonstrated, as one of the many programs under his leadership, the church adopted a HUD project, Rainbow Village Housing Development and lobbied the Miami-Dade Housing Authority to completely renovate the complex. As a result of this action, the tenant council of Rainbow Village and the Vestry of this parish formed the Saint Agnes' Rainbow Village Community Development Corporation (CDC). Through the CDC, 80 two-story, three and four bedroom/two and one-half bath, single-family homes for ownership were built for low and moderate income families.

An ordained priest of the Episcopal Church and having served as a Priest for 39 years, Father Barry's leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a spiritual leader immersed in Scriptural commitment, he has earned the community's deepest respect. This is the legacy with which he now guides his Church.

Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing the Saint Agnes' Episcopal Church with the longevity of leadership through Reverend Barry. His service to his Congregation and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its Church sanctuary leaves an everlasting mark.

Today, I honor Reverend Barry for the years of dedication and commitment to his church and the community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GUARDSMEN OF COAST AIR STATION ELIZABETH CITY SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay a sincere tribute to the Search and Rescue Team of Lieutenant Marc Tunstall, Ensign Jason Evans, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Ackermann and Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Acuna. These men of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City rescued a downed Navy fighter pilot from the Atlantic Ocean this past Thursday.

At 6 p.m. on October 11, 2007, Lt. Marc Tunstall and Ensign Jason Evans, pilot and co-pilot of a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter found the downed F/A-18 Hornet nearly 80 miles off Cape Henry, Virginia. Rescue swimmer Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Ackermann was dispatched to retrieve the pilot from the ocean, whereupon the rescued pilot was hoisted in the helicopter by flight mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Acuna. The rescued pilot was transported to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where he is in stable condition, with only minor injuries from the crash.

Madam Speaker, this successful rescue is one of nearly 360 search and rescue missions executed every year by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. In the last 60 years, the Air Station has rescued or assisted over 10,000 people. I am proud that Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City is located in my district, and more proud of the exemplary work and bravery exhibited by the men and women who save hundreds of lives each year. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the commendable work of Lt. Tunstall, Ensign Evans, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ackermann and Petty Officer 3rd Class Acuna.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION RELATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, five years ago today, President George W. Bush signed into law the “Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq,” H.J. Res. 114.

In the House, the bill passed on October 10, 2002, by a vote of 296–133. I was one of 126 Democrats who voted against this grossly misguided bill, concluding that further diplomacy was needed over a U.S. military strike.

And today—I remain unyielding in my stance that diplomacy, rather than military action is the answer to creating political reconciliation in Iraq.

We must implement a diplomatic strategy that is framed upon the doorway of the U.N. and hinges on the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, U.S. allies and the will of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, as the Iraq Study Group concluded, a diplomatic strategy of gaining multilateral and bilateral support throughout the international community, especially with Iraq's neighboring states will help marginalize extremists and terrorists, promote U.S. values and interests, and improve America's global image.

Unfortunately, to date, the President's new strategy is not a new strategy at all and continues the same failed plan that was utilized prior to the surge. His failed plan has resulted in over 3,800 U.S. soldiers being killed and over 27,000 American soldiers being wounded.

Additionally, at least 150,000 of our service members have been victims of concussions,

many of whom will suffer from life long injuries that have no medical or technological resolutions—including blindness, deafness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. In the great State of Maryland alone, we continue to mourn the deaths of 70 service members and our prayers go out to over 392 brave men and women in uniform who suffer from wounds gained on the battlefield of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as we look back over the last five years we can only point to meager accomplishments while the overwhelming factor that shatters the forefront of our memory is the onslaught of bloodshed, further internal and external displacement of the Iraqi people, further corruption of the Iraqi government and further strained relations in the Middle East due in large part to the President's stubborn course of military operations in Iraq.

In fact, corruption within the Iraqi government is as bad as ever and has become what has been described by Stuart Bowen, the U.S. State Department's Special Inspector for Reconstruction in Iraq as a ‘second insurgency’ threatening to undermine U.S. and Iraqi efforts to build a stable democracy. As concluded by the Iraqi Commission for Public Integrity, corruption cases have increased by a staggering 70 percent in the last year, despite the Administration's efforts to quell these concerns by layering them in bureaucratic red tape and retroactively labeling unwarranted information as being classified.

As such, I congratulate my colleagues on passing H. Res. 734, which is a step in the right direction. Specifically, this legislation sends a strong message to the Administration that anti-democratic practices will not be tolerated. It also sends a message to the Iraqi Government that the U.S. Government will not sit idly by as Americans continue to sacrifice their lives at the expense of sustaining a mismanaged Iraqi Government.

Considering the ongoing corruption in Iraq, it is clear that our military can not do what should be the job of ambassadors, foreign dignitaries and heads of state.

As we look to the future, I hope that the Administration will shift from these failed policies in Iraq to a new policy that is fundamentally diplomatic and weighs heavily on the assistance of the international community.

We owe this to our brave soldiers, their families and friends, the American people, and to the people of Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE PIERCE FROST

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California has been exceptional. The Riverside educational community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent for the betterment of our children. Maxine Frost is one of these individuals. On December 8, 2007, Maxine will be honored at a retirement dinner after serving 40 years as a

member of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education.

Mrs. Maxine Frost graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in history and has been a resident and active member of the Riverside community since 1958. Mrs. Frost's interest in education began with her involvement in the education of her children. She was an active mother who served on various school committees. In 1967, the President of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education selected Maxine to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education. During her tenure, Mrs. Frost witnessed history including the desegregation of the Riverside school district. Maxine went on to serve on the California School Boards Association and in 1981 she was elected President of the organization.

During her tenure on the Board, Maxine has been elected by her fellow board members to serve as board president, vice-president and clerk. One of Maxine's many success stories is the creation and development of the AVID program: Achievement Via Individual Determination. AVID offers average students the opportunity to take college prep classes while teaching them study techniques and teamwork.

Mrs. Frost's involvement in the community is not limited to education; she has also dedicated her time to many other organizations that improve our quality of life including the Riverside Art Alliance, Junior League of Riverside, League of Women Voters and the National Charity League. One reflection of Maxine's many contributions to the community are the countless awards and honors she has received over the years. Recently the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education voted to name a school after Maxine, a vote which required the Board to make an exception to its policy which requires that a person be deceased for two years before a facility can be designated.

Mrs. Maxine Frost's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education and many other community organizations. I am proud to call Maxine a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

INDIA IS A DEFICIENT DEMOCRACY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was extremely disappointed today to see the Human Rights Watch had to issue a statement calling on the Government of India to finally take concrete steps to hold accountable members of its security forces who killed, “disappeared,” and tortured thousands of Sikhs during its military campaign in the Punjab. I was disappointed because India should already be doing this. I was disappointed because this call to action is simply further proof that India—which prides itself on being the