

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE SUSSEX COUNTY METH TASK FORCE FOR ITS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the citizens who have spent the last 2½ years working to keep the people of Sussex County safe from methamphetamines as part of the Sussex County Meth Task Force. My staff and I have had the honor of working with these committed individuals over the years and have borne witness to the gusto with which they have performed their work.

Only a few years ago, as local meth labs were busted and drug use seemed to be on the rise, the people of Sussex County did not stand idly by. Instead, they formed this task force and set to training local law enforcement, informing citizens, and quite literally taking back their streets. They have trained more than 700 volunteer firefighters and others. They have distributed informative “meth packets” to over 165 local retailers. They have worked with local educators and organizations to raise public awareness of the scourge of meth.

The results have been impressive and local law enforcement now feel confident that methamphetamines have not been able to establish a foothold in Sussex County, New Jersey. And so they are disbanding their formal group and spreading the word to show others how they've been so successful, including in a presentation at the statewide League of Municipalities conference earlier this week.

Many, many individuals deserve credit for the good work of the Task Force. Tom Davis, the Sussex County Fire Marshal, has served as Task Force Chairperson, shepherding the group through its several goals. Tom Cooney, of the Sussex County Narcotics Task Force, has helped to train hundreds of first responders and others. Dan Coronato has helped to put the Sussex County Task Force in touch with others who can benefit from their model. And Becky Carlson, Barbara Adolphe, Meg Samuel-Siegel, and Jane Butz have been the glue holding them all together, serving as a constant source of information and direction.

I commend the members of the Sussex County Meth Task Force for their extraordinary service to their community and I look forward to continuing to work with them all to keep our streets safe and our schools and neighborhoods drug-free.

PROVIDING THAT THE GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER SHALL BE KNOWN AS EMANCIPATION HALL

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support naming the great hall at the Capitol Visitor Center the “Emancipation Hall.” It is in the spirit of this country’s great advances—particularly in solidifying our most precious values of freedom, equality, and justice—that I urge this body to move forward with this measure. Let the tenets of our great democracy ring down that hall—and throughout all the halls of Congress.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ERIK SAMSEL KRISTENSEN, USN

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important and emotional ceremony that will take place at the United States Naval Academy’s Hubbard Hall on this Saturday, November 17, 2007.

Hubbard Hall is home to Navy’s crew teams, and there, a rowing shell will be dedicated in memory of an extraordinary graduate of the USNA Class of 1995, LCDR Erik Samsel Kristensen. While leading a rescue effort in support of U.S. Navy SEALS under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Commander Kristensen was killed in action in Asadabad, Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. In that engagement, our Nation, our Navy, and the Kristensen family lost a young warrior son who exemplified the honor, courage and commitment that is the very soul of our Navy and the Naval Academy. In the time since Lieutenant Commander Kristensen’s sacrifice, he has been accorded honors richly deserved. However, in organizing the effort to name a racing shell in his memory, his classmate and shipmate, Mr. Brooks McFeely, found a unique and lasting medium to communicate the courage, determination and selflessness that characterized his great friend’s life.

Over the years Hubbard Hall has been a crucible of leadership development under the guidance of coaching legends including Rusty Callow, Carl Ullrich, and Rick Clothier. Home to Olympians, scholars, and most importantly, warriors, Hubbard Hall has a rich tradition of honing the work ethic, competitive spirit and teamwork essential to victory in peace and war.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that we honor Lieutenant Commander Erik Kristensen,

a leader who epitomized the Navy rower as described by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“Is life less than a boat race? If a man will give the blood in his body to win the one, will he spend all the might of his soul to prevail in the other?”

To the men and women at Hubbard Hall who follow the example of LCDR Erik Kristensen, that will always be a rhetorical question. In honor of a great man and his family, the people of the United States of America wish Godspeed and great victories to the shell ‘Kristensen’ and the midshipmen fortunate to row in that testament to honor and courage.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3074, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final FY 08 Transportation-HUB Appropriations Conference Report for the key infrastructure investments it makes and the housing support it provides.

In the aftermath of the I-35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis this summer, it should be clear to every American that we can no longer afford the Bush Administration’s policy of deferring needed maintenance to our nation’s infrastructure—or shrink from the infrastructure investments necessary for the safe and vibrant America we are committed to building in the 21st century.

That’s why this bill invests \$40.2 billion to improve and maintain our Nation’s highways, including an additional \$1 billion to ensure the safety of our bridges. Additionally, we allocate \$9.65 billion to the Federal Transit Administration for capital improvements to our commuter and light rail systems in order to encourage the use of mass transit, alleviate traffic congestion and reduce pollution. We wisely reject President Bush’s effort to bankrupt Amtrak and instead provide \$1.45 billion to support our national rail system and the 24 million passengers it serves. And we provide \$3.5 billion for vital airport modernization initiatives designed to expand airport capacity, make critical safety improvements and expand noise mitigation efforts.

On the housing front, we fund 15,500 new vouchers for vulnerable populations like low-income families, homeless veterans and the disabled. We spend \$145 million—or \$29 million over the President’s request—to protect children from lead poisoning. We invest \$3.79 billion in the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG program to revitalize neighborhoods across the nation. And we allocate \$200 million to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for its work counseling the

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

estimated 2.5 million homeowners at risk of foreclosure as a consequence of the ongoing subprime mortgage crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this conference report.

HONORING JEREMY THOMAS  
CHARLTON

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Jeremy Thomas Charlton, who recently received the highest rank in boy scouting, Eagle Scout, on September 23, 2007. He is a member of Troop 33, sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Romney, WV.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Jeremy painted and repaired three buildings at the Hampshire County Fairgrounds. These buildings are used every summer in August during the Hampshire County Fair and throughout the year by various community organizations. Jeremy's beautification and improvements have increased the fairground as a whole.

Throughout his involvement since Cub Scouts, Jeremy has been an exemplary scout. He is a recipient of the Arrow of Light Award and officiates as a Scout Chaplain Aide to his fellow scouts.

In addition to his scout activities, Jeremy is very involved with his church's youth group and is a member of the Bible quiz team. A dedicated citizen, Jeremy has taken on several community service projects including food drives, picking up litter, and helping clean up the Potomac River.

Jeremy is truly representative of the Scout oath, "to do my duty to God and country" and I am proud to recognize a dedicated young man, like Jeremy Charlton. Hampshire County is fortunate to have him as a leader and I look forward to hearing about his future accomplishments.

BROADBAND CENSUS OF AMERICA  
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3919, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Recent data indicate that the United States has fallen behind other nations in the availability, speed, and value of broadband services, which refers to high-speed Internet access. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reported earlier this year that among the group's 30 member countries, the United States had fallen to 15th place in per capita broadband use by the end of 2006, whereas in 2001 the United States had been in fourth place. The United States recently ranked 21st in the International Telecommunication Union's Digital Opportunity Index, which includes 11 different variables of technology development, including the cost of connectivity relative to per capita income.

H.R. 3919 would direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to produce a public, online map showing what types of broadband access are provided where and by which companies. As the Government Accountability Office (GAO) noted in May, 2006: "Without accurate, reliable data to aid in analysis of the existing deployment gaps, it will be difficult to develop policy responses toward gaps in broadband availability." Some experts have forecast that implementation of universal broadband service would fuel the American economy, adding \$500 billion and creating 1.2 million new jobs. H.R. 3919 is an essential first step toward bringing high-speed Internet to every American and in ensuring that our Nation's citizens can realize the vibrant future that the information age offers.

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to complete an annual broadband census, i.e., an assessment and report on the deployment of broadband service capability, which would include a comparison with deployment in other countries. The measure also requires the National Technology Information Administration (NTIA) to develop a broadband inventory map showing the availability of service and types of service available, and it permits the NTIA to make grants to assist in the development of such a map. It also requires periodic FCC consumer surveys regarding broadband service.

It has been said before that "sound data makes sound policy," and this legislation will provide the information that is necessary to assist Congress and the FCC in creating a sound, national broadband strategy to bring us in line with other countries' broadband deployment.

Mr. Speaker, I again what to express my strong support for this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3919.

IN HONOR OF MARY ORR'S COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mary Orr, Principal at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Wyckoff, New Jersey, for her extraordinary commitment to high standards of education excellence.

Mary Orr has taken learning to a new level, integrating fresh technology, new education tools, and incredible enthusiasm into the approach at Abraham Lincoln. She mixes theory-driven number-crunching with a very personal touch at her school, encouraging teachers to find new and creative ways to help their students "learn to be learners." Mary Orr has developed her own method for using spreadsheets to chart test scores and provide teachers with easy-to-follow graphs on their classroom achievements. She also encourages her teachers to use technology to give students new ways to access information and develop a real love of learning.

An educator in Wyckoff since 1969, Mary Orr is being honored now as New Jersey's Distinguished Principal by the U.S. Department of Education and National Association of Elementary School Principals. She has long been eligible to retire, but she continues to give her all to the students, teachers, and parents of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School.

In fact, she continues to pursue enhancement of her own already-impressive professional credentials. She has already earned a master's degree in language arts and a doctorate in education administration, yet Mary Orr is pursuing a second master's in educational technology. And, all the while, she also remains an active part of the community, spending time with the local Rotary Club and earning the 2004 Wyckoff Family YMCA's First Annual William E. Boye Jr. Humanitarian Award.

From her enthusiastic spirit to her detail-driven approach, Mary Orr has made Abraham Lincoln Elementary School a model for all to emulate. I commend her on her good work there.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF FLOODING IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the many somber ones already extending sympathy and well wishes to the people of Mexico after the extensive flooding there last Saturday. The images were startling and sobering—a dramatic reminder of our own travails following Hurricane Katrina, as thousands in Mexico waited for rescue atop their rooftops. The southeastern state of Tabasco was struck the most crippling blow, as water inundated its capital city, Villahermosa, and affected as many as 1 million of the state's 2.2 million residents.

Words can only go so far. We should offer any and all resources that might soften the devastation in Mexico. When our struggling neighbors cry out, America heeds their calls. One of the worst natural disasters in that country's history requires immediate and attentive support.

We are with Mexico in this time of tribulation. This call to action merits our full endorsement—and the Mexican people, our most genuine compassion.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY MASQUERADEERS

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Naval Academy's midshipman theater company, the Masqueraders, on the occasion of their centennial year. The Masqueraders, sponsored by the Naval Academy English Department, support the moral and mental development of