

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 MASQUERADERS

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

midshipmen by bringing works of literature to the stage. By engaging the Brigade of Midshipmen with complex moral issues and portrayals of human nature, the Masqueraders have helped prepare generations of future officers for the challenges of military leadership.

While midshipmen produced theater pieces in the nineteenth century, the Masqueraders formally organized in 1907 with the approval of the Commandant of Midshipmen. That year, under the leadership of Midshipmen First Class Kirkwood H. Donavin, William B. Piersol, and Frank W. Townsend, the Masqueraders began an unbroken series of annual performances that have educated midshipmen up to the present day. Productions have ranged from Greek tragedies and comedies to classics of the modern stage. Highlights of the group's century of service include a 1974 American College Theater Festival production of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, invited to play at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater and honored by the Chief of Naval Operations, and a critically acclaimed 1983 compilation of Shakespeare history plays.

Madam Speaker, we should especially acknowledge Professors Michael Jasperson, David White, and Anne Marie Drew, for their vision and dedication as Masqueraders directors from 1960 to 2001. We should also recognize the current director, Professor Christy Stanlake; co-presidents, Midshipmen First Class Joy Dewey and David Smestuen; and Officer Representative, Commander Mark Larabee. Finally, we should acknowledge the key support provided by the English Department Chair, Professor Allyson Booth, and the Director of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Colonel David Mollahan.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the Masqueraders for their century of commitment to the power of theater to prepare midshipmen for leadership in peace and war. In honor of Masqueraders' support of the mission of the Naval Academy, the people of the United States of America wish them all success for another hundred years of service to the Brigade of Midshipmen, our Navy and Marine Corps, and our country.

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Cancer Society's 31st annual Great American Smokeout—a day when smokers across the Nation mark the event by cutting back, forsaking cigarettes for the day, or perhaps quitting altogether.

I'm proud that in my Congressional district, all the hospitals—which already prohibit smoking indoors—will today be extending their smoke-free zones and prohibit the use of tobacco products anywhere on their campuses. This includes outside entrances, walkways, parking lots and garages. Patients, visitors, and hospital employees are covered by this policy. These medical institutions, which treat many diseases that result from use of tobacco products, are taking a critical step that will

lead to patients, visitors, and staff reducing and hopefully quitting the use of tobacco products. By taking this action, the hospitals in my community will lead by example in our efforts to reduce tobacco use.

The toll of tobacco in America is devastating, with 440,000 people dying prematurely each year from tobacco use. Tobacco use is the cause of at least 30 percent of all cancer deaths and 87 percent of lung cancer deaths. Secondhand smoke is a major health hazard—3,000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers nationwide will die of lung cancer annually because of their exposure to secondhand smoke.

In Maryland, there will be more than 4,000 new cases of lung cancer diagnosed this year and there will be nearly 3,000 lung cancer deaths. In addition to the thousands of lives lost to diseases caused by tobacco products, the annual direct and indirect health care costs in the U.S. caused by tobacco use is approximately \$194 billion.

As people across the country begin to attempt to conquer tobacco addiction on this Great American Smokeout day, Congress must continue to do its part on reducing the addiction to tobacco. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and pass H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act. This bill would grant the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products and the marketing of those products, which the tobacco industry has shamelessly marketed to our Nation's youth to create lifetime smokers and consumers of their deadly products.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the hospitals in my congressional district for becoming smoke-free zones and commend the American Cancer Society for their efforts in reducing America's addiction to tobacco products.

HONORING DONALD W. CAMPBELL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respectfully request that my colleagues join me in congratulating Donald W. Campbell for being named the National Parks Conservation Association 2007 recipient of the Steven Tyng Mather Award.

Don Campbell has been a tireless advocate and ambassador for Harper's Ferry National Historic Park for nearly thirty years. When he arrived at Harper's Ferry as Superintendent, Don was a self-described "peace, love, and let's everybody get along," laid-back Californian. Since then, he has forged relationships of mutual trust and understanding with the communities that surround his park and has touched many with his strong values and steady leadership.

Don's service, leadership, and advocacy for the protection of Harper's Ferry National Historic Park exemplify what it means to be a steward of America's national parks. For more than twenty years, the National Parks Conservation Association has proudly presented the annual Steven Tyng Mather Award to a National Park Service employee who has

worked tirelessly to protect our national parks. His contribution to the Harper's Ferry National Historic Park will always be appreciated and I am pleased that he is being recognized for his service to our community.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing Donald W. Campbell as the 2007 Steven Tyng Mather Award winner for his dedication to protecting this scenic and historic jewel.

911 MODERNIZATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY 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, I rise in strong support of this legislation to update and improve 911 services for today's technology.

Improving public safety is a constant struggle, as I have learned working on improving 911 services for the Houston area and the entire state of Texas as a state legislator, and I want to thank Mr. GORDON for his work on this legislation, both in introducing it and for working with all involved parties throughout the process to create a bill with such broad support.

In June 2005, after it received reports about the inability of some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) customers to access 911 services, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued regulations requiring VoIP providers to automatically provide 911 services to their customers, and to route these calls with a call-back number and the caller's registered location, either directly or through a third-party.

After trying to address this issue for several years, I hope we can send a bill to the President this Congress addressing VoIP E911. The purpose of H.R. 3403 is to ensure that consumers using VoIP services to place phone calls have access to E911, by giving VoIP providers access to 911 infrastructure and by extending existing liability protections to VoIP service.

This bill requires VoIP providers to provide 911 service and E911 service to its subscribers in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations. It allows VoIP to access the nation's existing 911 infrastructure, which is largely operated by their competitors, traditional telephone companies. VoIP companies will also be permitted to access existing 911 infrastructure not only to deliver 911 calls, but also to provide location and call-back information for those calls.

Customers using VoIP services expect to access 911 services just as wireless and wireline customers do, and this legislation ensures it is parallel with those services when it comes to E911 regulations and requirements.

I strongly support this legislation to improve public safety, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.