

move toward political reconciliation, and that hasn't even begun to happen.

In my view, there is no sustainable role for large numbers of U.S. troops to play in Iraq—whether refereeing a civil war or waiting for the Iraqi Government to decide to act within the “breathing space” our brave troops have provided and our taxpayers are paying for at \$9 billion per month.

However, while this bill sends the right message—that our troops cannot remain in Iraq indefinitely—regrettably, it does not send it in the best way, because it will be supported almost exclusively by Democrats, and the President has already promised to veto it.

What we need is consensus here at home on a path forward in Iraq, and today's quick consideration of this bill doesn't bring us any closer to that goal.

I believe consensus can be found around the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, which I introduced as legislation earlier this year, including supporting a course of escalating economic development, empowerment of local government, the provision of basic services, a “surge” in regional and international diplomatic efforts, and lightening the American footprint in Iraq.

Only Democrats and Republicans working together can find the path out of Iraq. I will continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on further steps we can take to change our broader Iraq policy.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, today is America Recycles Day. Celebrating its 10th year, America Recycles Day is dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits of recycling and encouraging Americans to increase their involvement in recycling at home and work. It also serves as a reminder of the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

We're familiar with many recyclables, as more and more Americans take them out to their bins every day. Cardboard boxes are recycled and re-appear as new boxes. Yesterday's front page of a local newspaper may show up as a sports page next month. Glass bottles, aluminum cans, and plastics are also fixtures of daily recycling habits. According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling is conservatively projected to have saved 900 trillion Btus, equal to the annual energy use of 9 million households, in 2005.

But it's also important to recognize that recycling is much bigger than just the daily household products that end up in the curbside bin. More than 150 million tons of old cars, tires, materials from buildings that have been demolished, and a wide variety of left-over manufacturing materials are recycled in this country every year.

Scrap recycling is a \$65 billion industry in the U.S. that employs over 50,000 people. It also invests significant capital in high-tech, environmentally designed manufacturing machinery that is used to sort, pack, transform, process, manufacture and ship materials to be-

come new products. The scrap recycling industry is also a leading exporter, sending more than \$15 billion a year in products to over 140 countries around the world.

I hope all Americans will take a moment to think today about the role recycling plays in their daily lives, the environment, and our economy, and dedicate themselves to doing more.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOMBALL, TX

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most extraordinary towns in our country, Tomball, TX, and join them in celebrating their 100-year anniversary. This community began in the early 1800s as a farming community and has grown to be a town encompassing economic growth and core American values which makes our Nation a great place to live.

Tomball was first known as Peck but at the turn of the century, in 1907, the town was officially named Tomball in honor of Mr. Thomas Henry Ball; a Congressman, a lawyer, a proud father, and an honorable man.

Tomball saw their first boom in 1906 when the railroad came to town. The first freight train and the first passenger rail rolled through town in 1907. Today visitors can step back in time and enjoy the newly refurbished train depot, in the heart of downtown Tomball, as trains move through town as they did a century ago.

Tomball was also known as “Oil Town U.S.A.” in the early 1930's when oil was discovered in a big Texas way with a “gusher.” The city was quick to realize the extraordinary asset before them and negotiated a deal with Humble Oil and Gas allowing the company drilling rights within the city in exchange for free oil and gas to Tomball residents for the next 50 years.

Tomball has seen growth in all aspects of the community. Since the turn of the century, there has been the boom of the railroad, the great success of oil and gas, real estate growth, and road improvements all contributing to the strong economic base for this town. Tomball has always been a place with extraordinary schools, both public and private. The city possesses citizens with an eagerness to learn extending to higher education within the college system. Faith is important to this community and is the foundation that enables numerous churches to congregate within the area.

Tomball is an amazing town within Harris County, TX. It is the continued dedication to this town by its residents which makes it one of the friendliest places to live, not only in Texas but in the United States. Although Tomball has endured many changes over the last century one thing remains the same, the people. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Tomball it is with great joy I say thank you for being a wonderful and compassionate community. The devotion for this community is contagious and I am honored to be your representative, in fact I proudly display a sign in my office that says, “I Love Tomball.” I wish

this city all the best in the next 100 years. Happy Birthday, Tomball and congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.

JOHN GLENN ELEMENTARY RECEIVING THE 2007 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Glenn Elementary School in Donahue, IA. This week, John Glenn Elementary received the 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award. John Glenn Elementary was one of only five schools in Iowa, and 1 of only 289 of 133,000 eligible schools in the country to receive this award. The Blue Ribbon School Award is given annually to a select number of schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Schools that have received the Blue Ribbon Award are seen as national models that other schools can learn from. John Glenn Elementary clearly fits this role and should be used as a model for other schools in Iowa and throughout the country. The students and faculty at John Glenn Elementary think of themselves as not just another elementary school, but a family. Every day, they actively work with each other and help each other to achieve the goals the school has set forth. John Glenn Elementary has also gained a reputation for being not only a great elementary school, but an active leader in the community. The school has an ongoing alliance with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and operates a volunteer grandparents program. It is clear that John Glenn Elementary has served not only the children that attend the school, but the community as well.

Yesterday, I had the honor of meeting Principal C.J. Albertson and Cindy Irwin, a 5th Grade teacher at John Glenn Elementary. I applaud Principal Albertson, Ms. Irwin, and the entire faculty at John Glenn Elementary for their commitment to public education and the development of our children. All of their hard work and dedication has made John Glenn Elementary one of the best schools in the country. I'm proud to be representing John Glenn Elementary School in Congress and look forward to hearing of their continued success in North Scott County.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the eve of National Adoption Day to recognize those American families that open their hearts and homes to our most vulnerable children and teenagers.

There are currently 114,000 children in foster care who need adoptive homes. Many of these children were victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and most will wait at least

five years and will move at least three times before they are adopted. One in five will never be adopted. In the face of these disheartening statistics, we must celebrate those parents who choose to adopt and provide a loving home to these children and encourage the adoption of more children from foster care.

In November 2000, hundreds of lawyers, child advocates, State foster care agencies, and courts, worked together to finalize hundreds of foster care adoptions across the country as part of National Adoption Day. Since then, National Adoption Day has grown as thousands of new families have come together.

I am proud that Montgomery County, Maryland, which is in my Congressional District, has finalized 7 adoptions this month and 30 so far this year. In one family, 2 sisters, Jerry and Beverly Wright, have adopted 5 children, and, with their biological children, now have 10 children safe and well-cared-for in their home. I congratulate them, and all the happy and thriving families that include adopted children.

HOMEOWNERS' DEFENSE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance coverage for catastrophic events:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank Mr. KLEIN and Mr. MAHONEY for their leadership in authoring this bill.

Too well, we all remember the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting confusion families encountered about their insurance coverage or lack thereof. Well, imagine if a hurricane were to go through a state and only 1 in 8 homeowners were covered by an insurance policy. Unfortunately, this is exactly the situation that exists in California today—only 1 in 8 (or 12 percent) of Californians possess earthquake insurance. At the time of the Northridge earthquake in 1994 almost three times as many people were covered. After the Northridge earthquake, the cost of the coverage doubled and the amount of coverage provided was cut in half.

The California Earthquake Authority (CEA)—created after the Northridge earthquake when insurers restricted homeowners' insurance policies in order to avoid earthquake exposure—currently provides about two-thirds of the residential insurance coverage in California. Since its inception 11 years ago, CEA has been unable to accumulate the amount of capital it projects it will need in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. This year approximately 40 percent of the premium that CEA collects from policyholders will be paid to reinsurers rather than towards capital accumulation or more coverage under the policy.

Including the CEA in the benefits provided under H.R. 3355 will allow it to reduce its claims-paying financing costs while still being able to pay the cost of its losses and repay any reinsurance or loans from the Federal

government. By reducing its claims paying costs CEA will be able to accumulate capital faster and encourage more people to buy earthquake insurance.

Inclusion of the CEA in H.R. 3355 makes good economic sense, good actuarial sense, and good common sense. I urge my colleagues to support the Manager's Amendment and the underlying bill before us today.

THE ENSURING MEDICARE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL THERAPY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the many Medicare beneficiaries who require therapeutic rehabilitative services.

I first developed an interest in rehabilitation issues after someone in my own family was forced to cope with a disabling paralytic disease. I saw the benefits of recreational therapy first hand, through the therapy my father received, and I want to be sure everyone has access to the same treatment already covered by Medicare.

Recreational therapy can be a vital service for the ill and the disabled. In many cases, it is a critical means for improving the functioning, independence, and quality of life of persons with illness or disability. Recreational therapy is always prescribed and supervised by a physician as part of a patient's rehabilitative plan of care.

It has long been a priority of mine to remove existing barriers to Medicare beneficiaries' access to recreational therapy. For years, I have worked alongside therapists in trying to help those with illnesses or disabling conditions gain consistent access to these services.

In the past, dozens of my colleagues and I have sought clarification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on its policy on coverage and payment of recreational therapy services in three inpatient settings: rehabilitation hospitals (IRFs), psychiatric hospitals (IPFs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

CMS regulations and policy manuals currently lack sufficient clarity on the treatment of recreational therapy provided in these inpatient settings. As a result, widespread confusion and misperceptions surround the recreational therapy benefit under Medicare. Out of concern for potential liability for fraud and abuse, many IRF, IPS, and SNF facility administrators are declining to offer recreational therapy, creating inconsistent access to these vital services for patients throughout the country.

CMS has responded to each Congressional inquiry made on this issue, but to date CMS has not clarified its coverage and payment policy of recreational therapy services to fiscal intermediaries, facility administrators, treating physicians, and other relevant entities. In order to ensure that patients are able to receive appropriate rehabilitative services, CMS must formally clarify its policy.

For the sake of Medicare beneficiaries in need of recreational therapy, it is time to require CMS to do so.

To be sure, CMS has confirmed in writing that it considers recreational therapy to be a covered service in each of these three inpatient settings. CMS has also confirmed that the costs of these services have been built into the prospective payment systems for IRFs, IPFs, and SNFs and, therefore, Medicare is already paying to provide recreational therapy services to beneficiaries who need them. Yet access to recreational therapy is not assured.

To remedy this situation, I am introducing the Ensuring Medicare Access to Recreational Therapy Act of 2007, with Representative Phil English, to make certain that patients who need recreational therapy services, as prescribed by their physician and as warranted by their health condition, have consistent access to these medically necessary services.

Our bill simply directs CMS to clarify current coverage and payment policy by issuing notification that recreational therapy is a covered inpatient service in IRFs, IPFs, and SNFs and that the cost of providing such services has already been built into the prospective payment systems for these inpatient settings. This clarification will serve Medicare beneficiaries far better than the current CMS guidance on this issue.

It is important to note that this legislation will not create new coverage, or add any financial burden to the Medicare program. It will, however, ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with disabilities, injuries, or chronic conditions may regain their maximum level of independent function.

I urge my colleagues to please join us in the fight to remove these arbitrary and unnecessary barriers to consistent access to recreational therapy services for all the Medicare beneficiaries who need them.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT LOWE'S CHRISTMAS TREES

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Lowe's Home Improvement, a company that has long been a strong force of economic development and community involvement in North Carolina.

It recently came to my attention that this week there was a bit of a kerfuffle over a misprint in Lowe's holiday catalog. Apparently the Christmas tree section of the catalogue had a misprint that labeled them "family trees."

There was no small outcry from a number of concerned citizens who thought that Lowe's might be up to something here. Well, I want to set the record straight. After hearing from Lowe's myself I know that it was a simple printing error—a matter of a hiccup in the creative process.

Lowe's was quick to apologize for the printing error and assured me that they were not out to alter the nomenclature of this fine Christmas tradition. As a former Christmas tree farmer I know how important it is to millions of Americans that a beautiful evergreen graces their living rooms each year as part of their celebration of this sacred season. At the same time, I also know that Lowe's was in no way attempting to undermine our celebrations of advent.