

TRIBUTE TO THE FLOYD COUNTY
EMERGENCY AND RESCUE
SQUAD, INC.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to bring notice to the House of an all-volunteer rescue squad in eastern Kentucky which was founded nearly 50 years ago in the aftermath of tragedy and will be nationally recognized this month for their citizen preparedness efforts.

The Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc. was formed in 1958 after a school bus went off the road and crashed into the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. Back then, there were no responders close enough, and 27 people perished in that accident. We have a rich tradition in eastern Kentucky of fixing our own problems when solutions seem too difficult, or even impossible. Two of the founding members of the rescue squad lost their children in the accident. They vowed that something like this should never happen again, so a small group of people got together and volunteered their time to be on call so that others might be saved. Because of their efforts, people traveling on rural, mountainous roads in Floyd County can know that help is on the way should they need it.

With 32 members, Floyd County's rescue squad is going strong. They work in coal mines, at the local retail store or as police officers. They have an operating budget of less than a typical Kentucky household, yet keep their well-worn trucks in good running order and are ready to respond whenever needed. More people understand what citizen preparedness means after 9/11 and Katrina. But it also means being prepared for any catastrophe where seconds count and trained personnel are needed when the injured are trapped. Citizen preparedness is nothing more than a concept without committed people who make it happen. These people don't get paid but choose instead to answer to a higher calling—helping their fellow citizens in times of need.

The National Congress on Secure Communities in Washington, DC, will be recognizing the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc. on December 17 for their efforts to keep people safe. It is national recognition for our local heroes.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc.—the people who provide public safety in parts of our country where it would otherwise not exist.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2634

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 2634, a bill that would provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes.

The Biblical scripture love thy neighbor, does not just call for the expression of care and concern for neighbors who live in close proximity. It also calls for reaching out to neighbors world wide. I believe it is especially important to be concerned about and help our neighbors who live in countries that are challenged daily with enormous issues involving poverty, hunger, homelessness, high unemployment, crime, illiteracy, and HIV/AIDS. Some of these countries include Angola, Haiti, Liberia, and Kenya just to name a few.

I support this bill because it could help our neighbors who are struggling everyday to live with and combat very difficult social and economic problems. I suspect that if economically disadvantaged countries were in a position to resolve their problems without assistance, they would. Helping to resolve these issues would lead to improvements in the quality of life for our neighbors, global economic stability, and world peace.

Jubilee USA Network, one grassroots organization that consists of churches and community organizations, has been dedicated to educating members of Congress and the public since the late 1990s on this issue. Their hard work, along with other organizations has created a movement that has made a difference. Some 30 nations have benefited from different types of debt relief estimating approximately \$80,000,000,000.

Other notable progress has been made with this issue. Agreements made with the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund have eliminated debts by some poor countries.

To observe the success thus far, Jubilee USA Network held a prayer breakfast on October 16, 2007, in the Rayburn House Office Building. From the overseas community, the prayer breakfast was attended by the Honorable Ombeni Sefue, Tanzanian Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Given Lubinda, Member of Zambia Parliament, and Rt. Rev. Jean Zachè, Episcopal Bishop of Haiti. It is important for the U.S. to gain support for the debt relief of poor countries as a part of its foreign policy and I thank Jubilee USA Network for continuing to raise awareness of this issue.

Further, I thank my colleagues MAXINE WATERS, SPENCER BACHUS, CAROLYN MALONEY, DONALD PAYNE, EMMANUEL CLEAVER, BARBARA LEE, and LUIS GUTIERREZ for introducing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which is a bill to support humanity.

PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR
STRONG ECONOMY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, our third quarter GDP grew at an impressive 4.9 percent. That means we have had 24 straight months of economic growth coupled with 50 straight months of job growth creating 8.3 million additional jobs. In the district I represent, the Nation's fourth largest cabinet company, the Elkay Cabinet Division, has recently decided to open a new manufacturing plant in Barnwell which will create hundreds of jobs.

This job success is the product of the pro-growth tax policies that President Bush signed into law 4 years ago.

There remains much more that we must do in order to promote strong economic growth. We need energy legislation that actually helps create new energy, health care reform that values individual choice over government mandate, and sensible tax reform. We must enact legislation—including a repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax—that doesn't raise taxes on the backs of middle class Americans and small businesses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH MIKE FELTON FOR
COACHING THE GARAWAY GOLF
TEAM TO WINNING THE DIVISION
III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Coach Mike Felton showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and Whereas, Mike Felton was a leader and mentor for the Garaway Golf Team; and

Whereas, Coach Felton has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the greens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Mike Felton for leading the Garaway Golf Team to winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

HONORING THE ADAMS
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Adams Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Adams Volunteer Fire Department was established February 3, 1971 and has 18 firefighters. Out of these firefighters, two are EMTs and four are First Responders.

Without volunteer fire halls like Adams, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Adams Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Ray Brown,

Asst. Chief John Roland, Wayne Evans, Allen Douglas, Donovan Tucker, Phillip Brown, David Dowlen, Carolyn Brown, Douglas Caroland, Will Goodman, Troy Head, Paul Crumley, Harold Jacobs, Matt Vogle, William Bryant, Kim Dowlen, Jeffery Lux, Michael Jones, William McKinney, and Joshua Love.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3915) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to establish licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and applaud Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his work to end predatory lending and strengthen consumer protections.

The United States is currently facing a subprime mortgage crisis. Right now, nearly 1,200 homes are vacant in Saint Paul due to foreclosures. These foreclosures harm the vitality of our neighborhoods. Further, foreclosures mean a loss of property tax revenue, placing a burden on local and State governments. The social and financial costs of this serious problem affect everyone.

H.R. 3915 is an important step to protect American families from predatory lenders by requiring lenders to ensure that borrowers have a reasonable ability to repay and establishing a licensing system for mortgage brokers and bank loan officers. This legislation requires lenders to disclose more about loans such as, the maximum amount a consumer could pay on a variable rate mortgage and the amount of charges included in the mortgage. It also bans financial incentives for subprime loans and holds lenders in the secondary mortgage market accountable for home loans by allowing consumers to seek redress directly from the firms that "securitize" mortgages.

The pre-loan counseling in this bill will protect families from predatory lending in the future. This legislation also establishes an Office of Housing Counseling, which will certify computer programs so consumers can evaluate home mortgage loan proposals, and it will also provide technical and financial support for States and local governments educating consumers about buying a home.

Predatory lending harms our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, the decorations are up, the parties are planned, and the nation's capital had its first snow fall—the holiday season is officially upon us.

Along with the joy and reflection this time of year brings, children are waiting hopefully for that one gift that will make their holiday complete. As the dutiful, doting parents that we are, we are more than happy to oblige.

But we may be giving our children more than they bargained for; recent studies have found more than one in three of the season's most popular toys have tested positive for traces of lead.

While I may not know Dora the Explorer from Hannah Montana, I do know my grandchildren and great-grandchildren deserve toys that won't make them sick.

This year has seen too many recalls, too many toys slipping through the cracks of the watchdogs at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and too many shelves still stocked with toys that pose a risk to our kids. This is wholly unacceptable!

Back in the Bay Area, the San Francisco Department of the Environment has taken matters into its own hands, testing children's toys for lead, cadmium and other dangerous chemicals. With an instant-read testing device parents will know whether the toys on their list put their kids at risk.

It is inconceivable that the agency put in charge of consumer protection for all Americans has so completely ignored its responsibility. It is an embarrassment that local government must rectify the ineptitude of the CPSC, though I congratulate San Francisco for its forethought and ingenuity.

Madam Speaker, this is a dereliction of duty by the CPSC that I am not prepared to accept. I have cosponsored a resolution introduced by my friend from Connecticut, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, calling for the resignation of Nancy Nord, the current head of the Commission.

Government watchdogs, retail outlets and the manufacturers themselves must take responsibility for the toys that end up on our shelves, and I will continue to demand that this holistic approach to keeping children safe is not ignored.

Parents take their children's safety most seriously, and the resources that exist online and through numerous publications are a gift themselves. I hope all my constituents, and gift-givers across the country, will take advantage of the information available to them.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, and I hope everyone gets what they want for the holidays—without the lead.

HONORING THE DIXBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Dixboro First United Methodist Church, located in Superior Township, MI. This year marks the 150th anniversary of this proud institution. The Dixboro United Methodist Church has a long and honorable history of service to its community, one which has both strengthened the faith of its members and solidified the church's place as an integral part of the Dixboro area.

The earliest known religious service in the recently-formed Village of Dixboro took place in 1828 and subsequent services throughout the next three decades were led by Methodist Circuit riders. Traveling a 40-mile route stretching from Nankin (Canton) to Ann Arbor, these preachers on horseback would arrive every 3 to 4 weeks, lead worship in a private home or 1-room schoolhouse, then move on to the next point on the circuit.

The dedication of these traveling preachers inspired those they served and in 1857 a group of local citizens met and formed a board of trustees to authorize the building of the church. Dixboro United Methodist was then built the following year, in 1858. The original building is now listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings and Places and it is still utilized as the sanctuary for services.

Dixboro United Methodist has historically had a strong rural congregation, made up largely of local farmers. The rural character of Dixboro began changing with the advent of the building boom of the 1950s. New subdivisions and residential developments have brought fresh perspectives into the community and growth to the congregation. The present Dixboro United Methodist congregation is a diverse mix of young and old, traditional and contemporary; many are descendants of the original congregation.

The people of Dixboro United Methodist put their motto, "People Helping People" to work. A strong commitment to mission and community outreach is a hallmark of this congregation. Throughout a century and a half of growth, change and development, Dixboro United Methodist Church has remained a warm and welcoming member of its community. With such a rich history, one full of service, compassion and fellowship, I am proud to recognize Dixboro First United Methodist Church as it celebrates its first 150 years.

HONORING THE DEFEATED CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.