

I urge my colleagues to join me in taking that critical step by cosponsoring the "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN
DESOSA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Juan Desosa.

Juan was born in Havana, Cuba, on February 10, 1927. His family was involved in the sugar and newspaper business, and he and his five siblings lived a happy life until 1959, when communist revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro took everything away from them. At that time, Juan made a life altering decision to leave his homeland and family and escape Cuba for freedom.

In 1960, Juan left Cuba and successfully made it to Miami, Florida. Not forgetting his homeland and the suffering of those he left behind, he worked to do everything in his power to help those that were not as lucky as he was. It was in Miami that Juan heard talk of a plan to liberate Cuba, and he soon found himself in the mountains of Guatemala with other Cuban refugees secretly training for an invasion. It was these refugees who later became the would-be liberators of the Bay of Pigs invasion. Juan fought fiercely for as long as he could, but was ultimately captured by Castro's soldiers. He suffered unimaginable conditions in a Cuban concentration camp for 3 years. Only after an exchange of prisoners for dollars between the Kennedy and Castro governments, was Juan released.

True to his character, upon returning to the U.S., Juan did not settle into a life of comfort and ease, but wanted to serve the country that liberated him twice, providing him with the economic, political, and religious freedom that was stripped away from him from his home country. He joined the U.S. Army, and during his military service, he proudly became a U.S. citizen. After serving 10 years in the Army, during which he engaged in combat missions during the Vietnam war, Juan retired as a major.

He settled down with his wife in New Port Richey, Florida, where he raised six children. Along the way, Juan has been recognized as an extraordinary businessman in his community who has owned and operated many popular restaurants in Florida's Ninth Congressional District. Currently, he owns and manages Juan Black Bean Deli in New Port Richey, an establishment that serves one of the best Cuban sandwiches on Florida's west coast.

Madam Speaker, as my good friend, Juan Desosa celebrates his 80th birthday, he has much for which to be proud. The life he has lived, and continues to live, serves as an example to us. He has displayed an uncommon courage, valor, and patriotism combined with his love of God, family and community that has benefited not only his fellow countrymen whom he endeavored to liberate, but his fellow citizens in the United States of America for whose freedom and liberty he fought for as a member of the U.S. Army.

TRIBUTE TO UNI-CAPITOL WASH-
INGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, as we listen to our constituents, grapple with their needs, speak out, legislate, and otherwise work to improve their lives and the life of our Nation, we take great pride in the ability of Congress and our system of government to inspire the world beyond our borders. But just as important as this inspiration is the recognition of what we all can learn from that world, from people who want to study, visit or otherwise immerse themselves in this great institution as a means towards better understanding the United States.

For the last 8 years, a unique international exchange has taken place here in Congress. Future leaders of Australia have participated in what's known as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Through this program each year, one dozen of Australia's best and brightest university students have been carefully matched to House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships. These internships have enabled me and many of my colleagues to share our pride in the American republic while at the same time learning more firsthand about the Australian commonwealth, its people, its ideas, and our numerous shared values.

It is an understatement to say that Australia and the United States are close allies globally or that we merely have such similarities as vibrant democracies, free-enterprise economies, and diverse societies. We are in many ways close cousins with complex national histories. That is what these young Australians get to learn as they are welcomed here, and how we profit by their all-too-brief presence among us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to participate in this program for the third time and host Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne.

Her kindness, can-do spirit, eagerness to learn, and willingness to share her views with me and my staff have made her an exceptional ambassador for her university and for her country. During her time with us, the closeness of the Australian and American peoples is clearly evident, just as it is evident that this exchange is not merely an academic exercise or even confined to Congress. It is about building for tomorrow, about personal and professional growth, and about lasting international friendships.

Sylvia is not alone in this experience in the First Session of the 110th Congress. Joining her in this very bipartisan effort: Emmanuel Rohan in the office of Representative MIKE CASTLE; Charis Tierney in the office of Senator MIKE CRAPO; Nicole Woodmansey in the office of Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD; Clare Ashby in the office of Representative PHILIP ENGLISH; Anna Keenan in the office of Representative SAM FARR; Nisha Sundaresan in the office of Senator CHUCK HAGEL; Anu Ambikaipalan in the office of Representative ALCEE HASTINGS; Megan Bainbridge in the office of Representative JERROLD NADLER; Stuart Broadfoot in the office of Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN; Jennifer Grant in the office of Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ; and, Michael Ng at House

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Majority).

Both the U.S. and Australian Governments have been strong supporters of this exchange over the years, and rightly so. Seven Australian universities currently participate in the program from 4 of the 6 Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory. Students are put forward from such diverse disciplines as economics, commerce, trade, science, law, communications, politics, and of course, American studies.

One of the more noteworthy aspects of the program is that it is an entirely pro bono project. Eric Federer, who served as a senior staffer in the House and Senate for a dozen years in the 1980s and 1990s, created the program 8 years ago soon after going to work for the auditing firm KPMG. What the effort almost completely lacks in bureaucracy, it makes up for in the personal trust, practical purpose and contagious enthusiasm that gave life to this highly-personalized vision of international exchange, which followed Eric's many travels to Australia in the 1990s while still on congressional staff.

Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues have recognized this effort over the years. I did so myself 4 years ago when the annual intern group was much smaller and drawn from only a single Australian university. It is heartening to see how much this program has grown, thrived, and how tribute has been paid not just here but in the Australian Parliament.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, there is so much we can learn when we connect people, whether here at home or around the world. Technology has greatly reduced what the Australians would call the "Tyranny of Distance." But only when you meet with and sit down with someone from another city, another state, or another country can you fully understand and appreciate the world through their eyes and divine where common ground can be found and endure.

My great hope is not only that this program continues, but that others will be founded in its spirit and focused towards as many peoples and places as possible in our world.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 365, METH-
AMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007. As a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I am proud to be a sponsor of H.R. 365, which will help combat the scourge of methamphetamines and ameliorate the serious problems it is causing our Nation.

First and foremost, H.R. 365 will require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop health-related guidelines for the cleanup of methamphetamines. It will also call for the National Academy of Science to perform a study on the long-term health effects on children rescued from living in methamphetamine lab homes. In addition, NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, will establish a research program to develop field

kits that will test for and detect methamphetamine.

Despite improvements in state and local efforts to reduce its prevalence, the problems produced by methamphetamines and incidents related to methamphetamines continue. In 2005, 5,846 methamphetamine labs were seized, and in 2003, 7.6 percent of high school students reported having used methamphetamines. Self-reported use of methamphetamines by adults and adolescents continues to rise. As methamphetamine usage increases, the demand for the drug rises. Nowhere is it a bigger problem than in the Midwest, where methamphetamines account for nearly 90 percent of all drug cases. In states such as Oklahoma, methamphetamines are surpassing cocaine as the drug of choice. The state medical examiner's office reports the number of death cases testing positive for methamphetamines has been higher than cocaine. The office also reports methamphetamine is found in more cases of homicides, and motor vehicle accidents.

Methamphetamine labs not only damage individuals, they affect our children and our environment. As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am horrified by the effects methamphetamine labs have on children. Children living at methamphetamine labs are at increased risk for severe neglect and abuse, both physical and sexual abuse. A child raised in or near a methamphetamine lab environment experiences stress and trauma that significantly affect his or her overall safety and health, including behavioral, emotional, and cognitive functioning.

Hazardous living conditions and filth are common in methamphetamine lab homes where explosives and loaded guns are often present and in many instances, within easy reach. The safety and development of our children are negatively influenced by living in methamphetamine lab homes.

Our environment suffers from methamphetamine labs as well. In general, there are 5–7 pounds of toxic waste produced for every pound of methamphetamine manufactured. There are more than 30 chemicals used to produce methamphetamines, and most are explosive, caustic, and carcinogenic. The chemicals are often poured into streams, down drains or disposed of in fields, yards or gutters. Many highway cleanup crews have reported finding toxic garbage from methamphetamines in ditches. All of this illicit toxic waste eventually winds up in waterways via rainwater runoff.

Mr. Speaker, these dire problems require immediate action and H.R. 365 does this appropriately. I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight against the methamphetamine epidemic by supporting H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007.

TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978 TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD FOR CERTAIN RETAIL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 in order to establish a Federal renewable energy portfolio standard for certain retail electric utilities. I would like to thank Representatives PLATTS, PALLONE, UDALL of Colorado, SHAYS, DEGETTE and MCNERNEY for their work on this issue and for joining me in introducing this legislation.

This bill will take a modest but important step towards developing our country's vast renewable energy resources by requiring retail sellers of electricity to use a minimum amount of electricity from renewable energy sources. That minimum increases gradually from only 1 percent in 2010 to a long-term target of 20 percent by 2020.

Developing our homegrown energy resources will create jobs, save consumers money, and bolster rural economies. In addition, diversifying our energy supply will increase our energy security and reduce the threat of global warming.

For example, a 2006 analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that a standard requiring 20 percent of generation from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 would generate over 355,000 new high-paying jobs. In 2004, the Union of Concerned Scientists, using a modified version of the National Energy Modeling System, found that a 20 percent standard would have virtually no impact on consumer electric rates and would actually work to reduce natural gas prices.

Moreover, they calculated that a 20 percent standard would provide \$72.6 billion in new capital investments, \$15 billion in property tax revenues, and more than \$17 billion in payments to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners. Consumers would save over \$12.6 billion. Commercial and industrial users would save \$19.1 billion and \$17.4 billion, respectively. And, all of those savings would actually be helping us reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy and our impact on global warming.

The momentum for a national renewable portfolio standard, more simply known as an RPS, has been building. A Federal RPS mandate has already passed the Senate three times. Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia have already enacted renewable portfolio standards of their own because they recognize the economic benefits of an RPS. Nine States have even increased or accelerated existing standards. The RPS has proven itself effective, efficient and popular. It is time to bring those benefits to the rest of the Nation.

This bill provides for a gradual start, and it has many provisions both to help utilities meet the requirement and to reward those utilities that meet the requirements ahead of schedule.

It allows States, many of whom have moved far ahead on this issue, to have standards that are more rigorous than the Federal standards, and it provides incentives for the distributed generation of renewable energy and for the development of renewable energy resources on tribal lands.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. PAUL ANTHONY WIESER

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Paul Anthony Wieser of Culpeper, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Mr. Wieser dedicated his life to military and public service and should be honored today.

Mr. Wieser was a proud World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy aboard the USS *North Carolina* as a Boatswain Mate First Class from 1941 to 1946. After the war, he returned home to Linden, New Jersey and became a firefighter for the Linden Fire Department. He was called from the United States Naval Reserve in 1951 and served in Korea aboard the USS *Kula Gulf*. After retiring from the Linden, New Jersey Fire Department in 1980, Mr. Wieser moved to Wilmington, North Carolina to be closer to the battleship he loved, the USS *North Carolina*. He was a volunteer tour guide on the USS *North Carolina* for over 10 years. Mr. Wieser remained in touch with many of his shipmates and attended all of the USS *North Carolina*'s annual reunions. As the guest of honor at Constitution Day on September 17, 2006, he had the opportunity to ring the USS *North Carolina*'s bell. He was also featured on the cover of the October 2006 issue of Virginia Living Magazine in an issue that honored World War II heroes.

I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Wieser and offering our sincerest condolences to his wife, Millie Wieser, and his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House during the week beginning February 5, 2007. As a result, I was not recorded for a series of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, and 92, and "nay" on rollcall 81.