

the unusual and inappropriate mechanism of the self-enacting rule to add the creation of a new and completely unnecessary Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. We are being asked to support the expenditure of nearly \$4 million on a committee that would have no legislative jurisdiction and would cover no issue that is not already well addressed by existing committees. It strikes me that \$4 million is too much for the taxpayer to pay for press releases.

The attempt to create this expensive and useless committee has added an unacceptable element to what would otherwise be a bill I could support. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose H. Res. 202.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT CATS & RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2007

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Great Cats & Rare Canids Act along with my original cosponsors and fellow coauthors of the International Conservation Caucus, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TANNER and our newest coauthor, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, the first time you witness a great cat or a wild dog, you are likely to feel a rush of adrenaline, a sense of awe, and a heightened awareness of your vulnerability. Leading experts in carnivore biology assure us that these majestic animals feel equal anticipation and anxiety when encountering people. When I spoke with Dr. Alan Rabinowitz of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who has dedicated his life to saving big cats like jaguars, tigers and snow leopards, he told me, "Of all of the earth's magnificent creatures, the ones easiest to identify with, the ones most symbolic of the wildness remaining on our planet are the large carnivores, the top predators of the world." He is right.

Lions, cheetahs, leopards, African wild dogs, Ethiopian wolves, jaguars, maned wolves, bush dogs, clouded leopards, snow leopards, dholes, Iberian lynx and European gray wolves face threats from habitat conversion, loss of food sources, illegal trade, and disease. Scientists report that populations of all of these species are sharply declining compared to their historic ranges. African wild dogs and Ethiopian wolves especially are approaching crisis. Populations of snow leopards in Asia have declined due to illegal hunting for their use in traditional Asian medicine.

That is why it is imperative that the United States, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, support efforts to conserve these predators at the top of the food chain. Modeled after the highly successful Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which conserve rhinos, tigers, Great Apes, Asian elephants, African elephants, and marine turtles, this bill is authorized at \$5 million annually for the conservation of more than a dozen species of great cats and rare canines existing outside the United States. Acting as umbrella species for entire ecosystems, the health and stability of these iconic species are excellent indicators of human sustainability as well.

I don't stand alone in my conviction to conserve these species. My fellow coauthors of the

House International Conservation Caucus and 77 other Members of Congress cosponsored the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act in the 109th Congress. In fact, last year on Capitol Hill, another champion of these animals, the actress Glenn Close, who serves on the Board of the Wildlife Conservation Society, premiered a film entitled *Living With Predators*, to raise awareness of the plight faced by these predators and how global conservation organizations are offering innovative solutions to ensure their healthy populations and landscapes remain. Even just a minor commitment from the United States will greatly support their efforts. This bill authorizes that support.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my fellow coauthors of the House International Conservation Caucus—Representative TANNER, Representative ROGERS, and Representative ROYCE—to re-introduce the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007. I call on all members of Congress to show their support for these wonderful wild animals and the ecosystems in which they exist by cosponsoring this bill.

#### PEACHCARE III

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the funding emergency that threatens Georgia's PeachCare.

This is the third time this week I have stood here and announced that starting this Sunday—in just 2 days—no new children will be permitted to enroll.

If no action is taken by Congress or the Governor, this program will run out of funding completely within the next month.

And hard-working Georgia families will no longer be able to provide health care for their children.

I call on the Governor of Georgia and my colleagues in this Congress to ensure these children get the care they need.

I call on my colleagues and the Governor to save PeachCare.

These children deserve healthy futures.

#### HONORING MR. DENNIS EVERHART

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Everhart of Woodrow, Colorado, for his impressive contributions to Colorado agriculture. Dennis touched many lives and shared his love for agriculture as a Vocational Agriculture teacher for 26 years. Recently, Dennis received the high honor of induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Dennis was raised on a ranch in New Raymer, Colorado, where his family ran a cow and calf operation. After working several years in the oil fields and with his parents in a custom haying operation, Dennis joined the Marines. Following 52 months of active duty,

Dennis returned home and earned his bachelor of science degree from Colorado State University in 1970. Dennis taught Vocational Agriculture at Woodlin School in Washington County from 1970 to 1998, taking 1 year off to teach in Golden and 2 years off to manage a commercial hog operation. After retirement, Dennis ran for county commissioner and is currently serving his ninth year as Washington County Commissioner. Dennis and his wife Evelyn are the parents of three grown sons: Doug, Todd and Dennis.

Dennis taught a complete program in vocational agriculture, including crop science, livestock science, agricultural mechanics, marketing and management, and leadership skills. Both he and his students enjoyed a great deal of success. Twenty-six of his students earned the American Farmer/FFA degree; 81 students received the State Farmer/FFA degree. There were also a number of State winners of proficiency awards as well as several State officers from the Woodlin Future Farmers of America chapter. Several of Mr. Everhart's students are currently teaching agriculture education in Colorado. Dennis was a mentor to other young educators as well, supervising student teachers for 23 years. Additionally, Dennis was a sponsor of a successful Colorado Young Farmers Education Association Chapter.

As an individual, Dennis earned many awards through the years, including: honorary membership in the Woodlin FFA chapter; Honorary State Farmer Degree; Honorary American Farmer Degree; Friend of Washington County; 4-H Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor; Outstanding Young Member of Colorado Vocational Ag Teachers Association; Outstanding Region II Teacher for National Association of Ag Educators; Distinguished Service Award from Production Credit Association and officer of the Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (serving as president 1987–1988). Dennis was also named U.S. Steel's Ag Teacher of the year and 1998 Ag Teacher of the year by Western District Ag Education.

Dennis led by example and his enthusiastic community involvement demonstrated his passion for making a positive impact on the world around him. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to honor Dennis Everhart today for his commitment and devotion to Colorado agriculture.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. KWALICK

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald S. Kwalick, who will be retiring as the Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

Dr. Kwalick has devoted more than 25 years to serving the community as a public health official. Dr. Kwalick earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University and his Medical Degree from New York University. He also attended Columbia University where he earned his Masters in Public Health.

Dr. Kwalick began his service to the community as a public health servant in the 1970s

when, for 2 years, he was the Medical Director of the Trenton (NJ) Neighborhood Health Center. Following this work, Dr. Kwalick served as the Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Health. During the 1980s, he was the Hillsborough County Health Officer in Tampa, Florida. In 1990, Dr. Kwalick began his work for the State of Nevada when he became Nevada's State Health Officer, and eventually became the Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

In addition to achievements in the public health field, Dr. Kwalick's career is also distinguished for his service as a Preventive Medicine Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas, during the Vietnam War and for his involvement in various professional associations. Dr. Kwalick is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Physician Executive, and a Fellow of the American Public Health Association. He is also a Clark County Medical Society Delegate to the Nevada State Medical Association, NSMA, and Chairman of the NSMA Public Health Committee and President-Elect of the Clark County Medical Society.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Kwalick and his career. His dedication to the community is commendable and I wish him luck in his retirement.

#### HONORING COACH TERRY BUCKLES

#### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to publicly congratulate Terry Buckles for achieving his 500th career win as head coach of the Central Hardin High School Women's Basketball Team.

Throughout his 17 year career, Coach Buckles has epitomized the qualities that make Kentucky hold its basketball heroes in high regard. His steady leadership and the lifelong lessons imparted on his players have made his teams a model of teamwork and good sportsmanship. His success is evident through his players, 26 of whom have continued their student-athlete careers at the collegiate level.

In addition to his remarkable record of wins, Coach Buckles has coached his teams to six Kentucky High School Athletic Association Regional Championships. In 1996, he took the Central Hardin Lady Bruins to the State finals and later coached his team to a Kentucky AAU State Championship victory. His success has continued this season, leading the Lady Bruins to a 23-6 record, ranking fourth in the State. With his 500th win, Coach Buckles has joined only seven other coaches who have reached this milestone. He currently stands as the all time leader in wins in the Fifth Region and ranks in the top 10 for career wins for women's coaches in State history.

Coach Buckles' hard work and success at Central Hardin High School has been recognized throughout the Commonwealth. He has received numerous "Coach of the Year" awards; is an inductee of the Fifth Region Hall of Fame; and was honored last year with induction into the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches "Court of Honor," the highest tribute a basketball coach in Kentucky can receive.

I would like to recognize Terry Buckles today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his recent coaching milestone. His contributions to education and athletics make him a remarkable citizen worthy of our appreciation and respect.

#### IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, this Nation has lost one of the great chroniclers of the American experience. I rise today to honor the memory of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and a member of the Kennedy administration. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Schlesinger was among the most prominent historians of our time and a widely respected observer of contemporary politics. As an author, he received a National Book Award for "Robert Kennedy and His Times" and a National Book Award and a Pulitzer for "A Thousand Days," his memoir/chronicle of President Kennedy's administration. He also won a Pulitzer, in 1946, for "The Age of Jackson," a chronicle of Andrew Jackson's administration. He was also widely described as the "court philosopher" of the Kennedy Administration.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and he will be surely missed. He contributed a great deal toward our understanding of our Nation's past. His legacy of service to his country and his fellow man will surely be remembered for years to come.

#### WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage at the horrific conditions uncovered at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center by Washington Post reports last month. As a frequent visitor to this facility, I was appalled to read about a part of the center I did not see—overused outpatient housing in disrepair, patients confused about where to go after serious operations, and a tangled bureaucracy that service members and their families had to endure.

These conditions are not only unacceptable, but also indicative of the Bush administration's failure to plan for the Iraq war and its aftermath. We owe our wounded service members, who bravely served our country, so much more than what they have received. Many promises are made to our service men and women before they deploy, and when these promises are not met, we have failed this distinguished group. Not only does this affect current service members, but it affects those that may look at a future career in the service. What message are we sending them?

Madam Speaker, these past few years we have found ourselves in a fiscal bind. Hun-

dreds of billions of dollars have been spent on the war, and we are now faced with difficult budget decisions so that future generations do not have the burden of a deficit. But we should all agree that what cannot be sacrificed is the well-being of our wounded service members. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to do everything in our power to make sure that these vulnerable men and women do not slip through the cracks without proper counseling, adequate care or a safe place to live.

I am committed to ensuring that our men and women in uniform receive unfettered access to competent and coordinated care in safe, clean facilities. It is clear that administrative policies need to be revised, not only at Walter Reed, but across the system at locations both here and abroad. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1268, the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007, which was introduced by my colleague from Arizona, Congressman HARRY MITCHELL. This bill will establish oversight and accountability of the Nation's military medical centers and housing facilities and reduce the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy for recovering service members and their families by establishing an electronic clearinghouse. This measure will also establish support services and rights for recovering service members and their families, as well as the Oversight Board for the Wounded.

While we must provide the best possible medical care to service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, we also must pay heed to those that served our country previously. We cannot forget that the VA will play a larger role in the coming years as more service members return from ongoing conflicts. We must promise both service members and veterans that we will seek accountability and work towards eliminating these problems completely. They have given too much to our Nation to expect anything less.

What we need now is accountability, honesty and oversight. I fully support my colleagues on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee that have held hearings on this matter. I am also encouraged by the creation of a bipartisan presidential commission led by former Senator Bob Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, that is charged with looking into the care of wounded service members.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and forging solutions to correct our military care structure and give our wounded service members the care that they earned and deserve.

#### CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTABILITY RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2007

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, at a time when the savings rate of hard working American families is in red, negative for the first time since the Great Depression, it is incumbent that this Congress provide a new direction for the working men and women who hold credit cards.