

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website.

Adding barcodes to envelopes already going through the postal process can cost tiny fractions of a penny per piece.

Purchasing any additional scanning or telephone equipment is also relatively inexpensive for election technology.

Mail ballot tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for all.

I believe it will increase voter participation as it increases peace of mind.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and ensure this level of security, transparency, and accountability to all voters who either choose to vote by mail or who live in one of the growing number of localities holding all-mail elections.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20, 2007 because I was meeting with British Members of Parliament in an effort to build an international coalition to end the Iraq War. If I was present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall No. 157 (H.R. 138, Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 158 (H.R. 658, Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 159 (H.R. 839, Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 160 (H. Res. 254, Providing for consideration of the bill [H.R. 1227] to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low income families affected by Hurricane Katrina);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 161 (H. Con. Res. 42, Honoring the heroic service and sacrifice of the 6,500 glider pilots of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 162 (H.R. 759, Redesignating the Ellis Island Library on Ellis Island, NY as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library");

"Yea" on rollcall No. 163 (On approving the Journal);

"No" on rollcall No. 164 (Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require recipients of rental assistance under the bill to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities);

"No" on rollcall No. 165 (Biggart Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require that, instead of replacing all pre-Katrina public housing units, only the number of public housing units occupied pre-Katrina be replaced); and

"Aye" on rollcall No. 166 (Al Green Amendment to H.R. 1227, to extend FEMA housing assistance for evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma until December 31, 2007 and

provide tenant-based voucher assistance upon termination of FEMA housing assistance for eligible families)

PREVENTING HARASSMENT THROUGH OUTBOUND NUMBER ENFORCEMENT (PHONE) ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740, because it is important that we broaden the scope of current law to prohibit a person from engaging in "spoofing," which is the use of incorrect, fake or fraudulent caller identification—caller ID—to hide their identity in order to facilitate a fraudulent telephone call to the recipient. In addition, the bill provides the tools needed for the Department of Justice to prosecute and protect against criminals who engage in spoofing.

H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement—PHONE—Act of 2007, is intended to help protect consumers from harassment, identity theft, and other crimes. The legislation creates a new Federal crime to prohibit using or providing, in interstate or foreign commerce, false caller ID information with the intent to defraud.

Recently, the technology needed to spoof has become readily available, either through the purchase of Internet telephone equipment or through Web sites specifically set up to spoof. For example, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol—VOIP—equipment can easily be configured to populate the caller ID field with information of the user's choosing. Some of the technology can block any back technology such as the star symbol or dash 69.

Caller ID spoofing is a form of identity theft that can cause damaged credit and financial ruin. Call recipients sometimes divulge personal and private information to the spoofer, under the mistaken belief that the caller is a legitimate caller. For example, the AARP—formerly the American Association of Retired Persons—has reported cases in which people received calls that made false claims that they missed jury duty. To avoid prosecution, these individuals were told they needed to provide their Social Security number and other personal information. The phone number that appeared on their caller ID was from the local courthouse, so people assumed the caller was telling the truth.

In addition to identity theft, spoofing invades the privacy of those individuals whose caller ID is used to mask fraudulent calls and can be used as a form of aggressive harassment. The use of this technology has been linked to fraud, prank telephone calls, political attacks, and telemarketers who attempt to avoid the current "do not call" limits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgement of last week's consideration and passage of H. Res. 228, a bill recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to have supported a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me.

My paternal grandfather emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill.

I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, but I'm also proud of the Greek American community. In fact, I'm proud of the symbiotic relationship between my Greek heritage and the Greek-American legacy.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my father's father in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. In fact, American representative democracy, as we know it, is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful Nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I very much support the sentiment of H. Res. 228.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER CAROL BOHN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Carol Bohn, U.S. Navy, Retired.

Commander Bohn provided outstanding service to our country as a commissioned officer, and in retirement, she continues to provide exceptional service to the Tri Valley community and to our men and women in uniform.

Commander Bohn's family instilled in her a deep-rooted sense of commitment to public service. Her late mother and father were World War II veterans, her sister currently serves as a Captain in the U.S. Navy and her brother serves as a Captain in the Navy Reserve.

Commander Bohn gave 25 years of exemplary service to our country in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. This included a tour aboard the Hospital Ship USNS Mercy during Operation Desert Storm, when she provided care and comfort to wounded service members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 157 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 138)—“Aye”;
Rollcall No. 158 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. R. 658)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 159 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 839)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 160 (On Agreeing to the Resolution on H. Res. 254)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 161 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 42, as amended)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 162 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 759)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 163 (On Approving the Journal)—“No”;

Rollcall No. 164 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Hensarling of Texas) “Aye”;

Rollcall No. 165 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Ms. Biggert of Illinois) “Aye”;

Rollcall No. 166 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Al Green of Texas) “Nay”;

Rollcall No. 167 (On the Motion to Permit to Proceed in Order on This Day)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 168 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Neugebauer of Texas) “Aye”;

Rollcall No. 169 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Price of Georgia) “Aye”;

Rollcall No. 170 (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 1227 by Mr. Al Green of Texas) “Nay”;

Rollcall No. 171 (On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1227 with Instructions)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 172 (On Passage of H.R. 1227)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 173 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 835, as amended)—“Nay”;

Rollcall No. 174 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 327, as amended)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 175 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 797)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 176 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R.1284)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 177 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1130)—“Aye”;

Rollcall No. 178 (On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 740)—“Aye”.

IMPROVING COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN CASES OF IMPAIRMENT OF VISION INVOLVING BOTH EYES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, to amend

A member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for approximately fifteen years, Commander Bohn now serves as Chaplain for the VFW Pleasanton Post #6298. In the course of her service with the VFW, Commander Bohn has participated in numerous color guards for various community groups and organizations. She was also instrumental in leading drives to obtain phone cards and other essential items for our nation's troops. Her efforts not only won her Post an award, but more importantly, they improved the morale of our men and women in uniform deployed overseas. On March 17, 2007, Commander Bohn's Post presented her with a special award for her unquestioned patriotism and continued diligence to recognize and honor all veterans.

Commander Bohn has resided in Pleasanton for the past 20 years. Each year, Pleasanton hosts a Veterans Day Parade honoring those who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Commander Bohn is instrumental in the planning and implementation of this event, which honors the many sacrifices made by our fighting men and women. Through Commander Bohn's tireless efforts, the people of Pleasanton and the 11th Congressional district are assured that our veterans will not be forgotten.

Equally committed to public service and to her family, Commander Bohn is a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She is married to a retired Navy Commander, and together they have two children and four grandchildren.

Commander Bohn's dedication is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States and serves as an example to all. For that reason, I ask my Colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding citizen and leader.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA FOR A CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 66, which authorizes the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but a systematic campaign of genocide carried out by the Nazis against the Jews. The world must never forget the more than six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In total, the victims accounted for more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe.

We must never forget the evil acts that happened during that era and continue the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and anti-Semitism in every form today.

More than 60 years later, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all over the world dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in one of history's darkest hour and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice.

As we authorize the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on April 19, 2007 for a ceremony as part of the commemoration for the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust, let us also be careful not to repeat history. We remember the atrocities that surround us today in the Darfur region of Sudan. It is right that we should gather at the rotunda to remember a period of such unspeakable horror that it will never be forgotten and which we must never again allow to happen.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 66 and authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to commemorate those who perished in the Holocaust.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1284, a bill that will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and also increase the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as the son and grandson of American veterans, I fully support the implementation of this bill. Passing H.R. 1284 is a matter of fairness to our veterans. These brave men and women sacrificed the best years of their lives in service to our nation, and they deserve all the resources they were promised and have earned.

As the cost of living increases each year, so should the funds set aside for our nation's wounded warriors. It is unreasonable to ask our veterans to pay out of pocket for the services that they were promised, but that is unfortunately what happens when day-to-day living costs exceed veterans' disability compensation. For many veterans living on fixed incomes, they need the annual cost of living adjustment. Congress has an obligation to pass a cost of living adjustment measure to ensure that these veterans can continue their current standards of living and cover the costs of their basic needs.

H.R. 1284 also makes certain that the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of disabled veterans keep pace with annual inflation. The spouses and children of veterans often suffer silently on the sidelines as their loved ones struggle with combat-related disabilities. We owe it to veterans' strongest support network—the families of veterans—to meet their needs when addressing a cost of living adjustment.

I believe that Members on both sides of the aisle can and should rally behind this bill, as well as H.R. 327, the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, and H.R. 797, a bill to improve vision compensation benefits for veterans.

I urge the speedy passage of all three of these bills on behalf of Ohio 18's 66,000 veterans and all of America's veterans,