

April 27, 2007, after serving the Congress for over thirty years in various positions at CRS. Mr. Miko's tenure spanned multiple Congresses and several epochs in foreign policy and European affairs, his area of specialization. He has served as the institutional memory of Congress on important issues in which he was the recognized expert. His work as an analyst, manager, and leader in the CRS organization is particularly notable for his tact, judgment, and unswerving commitment to the core CRS mission of supporting an informed national legislature with nonpartisan analytical and research work.

Mr. Miko began working at CRS in 1974 as a research assistant in Soviet and Eastern European affairs. As an analyst and later as a specialist, Mr. Miko served as the principal CRS expert on Central and Eastern Europe. The quality of his work earned him widespread recognition and significantly contributed to CRS's reputation as a center for advanced policy analysis. During the Cold War years, he produced numerous studies on Eastern Europe and the détente period between the United States and Soviet Union, including major east-west initiatives such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He participated in the congressional delegation to the Belgrade Conference of the CSCE in 1977 and the Budapest CSCE Cultural Forum in 1985. He was seconded to the Department of Defense in 1992 to serve as a representative of the Secretary of Defense at the CSCE Review Conference in Helsinki. As the Cold War wound down, Mr. Miko completed major CRS projects on the impact of the transformation of Eastern Europe after 1989 and the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Later, he provided key analyses on global security issues such as organized crime, trafficking in persons, and approaches to counterterrorism. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Mr. Miko served as co-coordinator of the CRS Terrorist Task Force that worked across subject divisions to coordinate related research needs for Congress.

I got to know Mr. Miko well in another role, one through which he also provided invaluable service to Congress. He has played an instrumental part in two congressional programs to assist with the development of new democracies. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Miko coordinated the CRS role in the Frost-Solomon Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The role of the Task Force was to help strengthen the parliamentary infrastructures of the formerly passive legislatures in twelve countries of post-communist central and eastern Europe. This unprecedented initiative of the U.S. Congress entailed extremely demanding and complex activities involving technical assistance on legislative practice, library and research institutional development, and automation systems and design. Mr. Miko's understanding of Europe on the one hand, and of Congress on the other, was essential to the success of the program, as his first-hand knowledge of the people and cultures of Eastern European countries helped the Task Force appropriately tailor its activities to the needs and working styles of its legislative partners in the region.

Rep. DAVID DREIER and I worked closely with Mr. Miko on the Frost-Solomon Task Force, and our positive experiences inspired

us, in 2005, to establish the House Democracy Assistance Commission to strengthen democratic institutions in emerging democracies worldwide. In this effort Mr. Miko has again proven an invaluable resource as a veteran expert in the development of democratic legislatures. He has helped the Commission determine appropriate partner nations, participated in needs assessments, and delivered direct technical assistance to partner legislatures. Most recently he accompanied us on a mission to Georgia, where we are working to support the democratic gains of the Rose Revolution. I and other Members of the Democracy Assistance Commission will greatly miss having such ready access to Mr. Miko at CRS, but we hope to find ways to continue to draw upon his insights and expertise as we move ahead with our work.

Over the years, Mr. Miko assumed several senior management positions at CRS, serving twice as section head of the Europe, Middle East, and Africa section, and once as deputy assistant director for the foreign affairs division. He represented the Library of Congress at the National War College in 1984–1985. He earned a Distinguished Service Award for his performance as representative of the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the 1992 Helsinki Review Conference.

In all of his professional endeavors, Mr. Miko has been a role model of the highest level of service to the U.S. Congress, the Library of Congress, and CRS. He has excelled as a capable manager of programs and resources, as a nationally renowned expert in his field of policy expertise, as a diplomat, and as a notable contributor to the legislative work of Congress.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to express my appreciation to Francis Miko for his many years of public service and for his multiple contributions to the Congress, and to wish him well in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PANCH R.
PRASAD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Panch R. Prasad, C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation, for his recent professional successes and achievements.

Panch is the President and C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation. The company was founded in 1990 in Portland, Oregon, however, their corporate offices are now located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Since its founding, the U.S. International Trading Corporation has been committed to providing quality hair care, skin care, and cosmetics products. The company's beauty and cosmetics products are sold across the world with the products being available to consumers in East Asia, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and Australia.

Most recently, Panch was honored as the Small Business Exporter of the Year by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Small Business Administration utilizes an independent panel of judges that use several factors in awarding these honors to the recipients.

The panel evaluates businesses on several factors such as the growth in number of employees, increase in sales, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, and contributions to community-oriented projects. This is an outstanding and well-deserved honor. Panch believes in supporting a commitment to excellence by providing quality distribution and products to U.S. International Trading Corporation's customers. I applaud his commitment to excellence.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Panch R. Prasad. His professional success is truly commendable. I congratulate him for his recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

FEDERAL AGENCY DATA BREACH
PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, secure information is the lifeblood of effective government policy and management, yet federal agencies continue to hemorrhage vital data. Personal information continues to be placed at risk, and we must ask: What is being done to protect the sensitive digital identities of millions of Americans, and how can we limit the damage when personal data does go astray?

As we all now know, a Department of Veterans Affairs employee reported the theft of computer equipment from his home—equipment which stored more than 26 million records containing personal information. VA leadership delayed acting on the report for almost two weeks, while millions were at risk of serious harm from identity theft and the agency struggled to determine the exact extent of the breach.

But this is only one in a long string of personal information breaches in the public and private sectors, including financial institutions, data brokerage companies, and academic institutions. Last year, we found the Census Bureau could not account for over one thousand laptops containing sensitive information issued to employees. And just recently, we learned the Department of Agriculture left sensitive data on a website, putting the personal information of 150,000 individuals at risk.

These breaches continue to illustrate how far we have to go to reach the goal of strong, uniform, government-wide information security policies and procedures.

On the Government Reform Committee, I focused on government-wide information management and security for a long time. The Privacy Act and the E-Government Act of 2002 outline the parameters for the protection of personal information. These recent incidents highlight the importance of establishing—and following—security standards for safeguarding personal information. They also highlight the need for proactive security breach notification requirements for organizations—including Federal agencies—dealing with sensitive personal information.

Congress continues working on requirements for the private sector—but Federal agencies present unique requirements and

challenges. These incidents demonstrate the importance of strengthening the laws and rules protecting personal information held by Federal agencies—and we need to do this quickly.

In order to get a more complete picture of the problem before pursuing legislation, we sent a request to all cabinet agencies seeking information about data breaches involving the loss of sensitive personal information.

The results were troubling. We learned there have been a wide range of incidents involving data loss or theft, privacy breaches, and security incidents. In almost all of these cases, Congress and the public would not have learned of each event unless we had requested the information.

My bill requires timely notice be provided to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a Federal agency. Despite the volume of sensitive information held by agencies, there currently is no requirement people be notified if their information is compromised. Under this legislation, the executive branch must establish practices, procedures and standards for agencies to follow if sensitive personal information is lost or stolen and there is a reasonable risk of harm to an individual. And we provide a clear definition of the type of sensitive information we're trying to protect.

We also give the agency Chief Information Officers the authority, when appropriate and authorized, to ensure agency personnel comply with the information security laws already on the books.

Finally, we ensure costly equipment containing potentially sensitive information is accounted for and secure. Half of the lost Census Bureau computers simply were not returned by departing or terminated employees. The agency did not track computer equipment, nor were employees held accountable for failing to return it. This is taxpayer funded equipment, containing sensitive information, and we must know what we have and who has it—at all times.

Each year, I release Federal agency information security scorecards. Despite some improvement, scores for many departments remain unacceptably low. The Federal Government overall received a C minus, a slight improvement over prior years.

The Federal Government has sensitive personal information on every citizen—health records, tax returns, military records. We need to ensure the public knows when its sensitive personal information has been lost or compromised in some way.

The language in this bill is identical to H.R. 6163, which I introduced last Congress. Last year, with the assistance of then Chairman STEVE BUYER, I incorporated this language into the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act (H.R. 5835), which passed the House on September 26. That bill, including my language, had strong bipartisan support, with 67 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, including the new chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

This bill is a critical first step toward limiting the loss of our sensitive personal information. I hope we can again move this important legislation through the House.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROLYN MAZURE AS SHE RECEIVES THE ELIZABETH BLACKWELL AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Connecticut NOW and all of those gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to my good friend, Dr. Carolyn Mazure, as she is honored with this year's Elizabeth Blackwell Award. Carolyn is a remarkable woman whose outstanding accomplishments have had significant impacts on women's health research. Each year, Connecticut NOW presents the Elizabeth Blackwell Award to an individual for "outstanding achievements in facilitating women's holistic health: emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual." I cannot think of a more appropriate or deserving recipient than Dr. Carolyn Mazure. She has dedicated her professional life to the advancement of women's health. Perhaps her most important contribution, to her field and to women everywhere, is the establishment of Women's Health Research at Yale—a program dedicated to advancing the study of women's health and gender differences across all areas of biomedical and psychosocial study.

Carolyn first came to New Haven to complete her postgraduate education at Yale University. Upon completion of her degree she was offered a faculty position at Yale—the University could not have made a wiser investment. Beginning her career as a clinician and researcher, Carolyn has built a distinguished reputation as a recognized scholar, esteemed clinician, teacher, mentor, and accomplished administrator. It was through her unique vision and respected understanding of the value of gender-specific research and data that Women's Health Research at Yale was developed. Carolyn has served as the organization's director from its inception—setting a new standard of practice for medical research.

In under a decade, Women's Health Research at Yale has initiated work and issued invaluable findings on some of the most pressing problems in women's health. The genetics of breast and ovarian cancer; the role of estrogen in memory; cancer screening in HIV-positive women; prevention of domestic violence; and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are just a small example of the more than 50 major projects they have initiated to date. This research, combined with the program's active educational community outreach, has translated new findings into practice as well as influencing public policies on health—making a real difference in the lives of women across the country.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Carolyn for many years and have often found myself in awe of her energy and enthusiasm. I have had the honor to introduce Carolyn on two of three occasions she provided testimony to the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of research on women's health and it was without hesitation that I supported her nomination for the 2005 American Association of University Women Achievement Award. I am grateful to Carolyn for her inspiring vision of what truly comprehensive medicine can be and so proud to have the opportunity to work with her.

Carolyn is a visionary leader who not only possesses the ability to explain the issues that confront us, but to also identify the path that stimulates change and builds alliances that unite us. She is dedicated to the common good and draws us to shared goals through her personal warmth and deep convictions. Guided by clear thinking, intense intellectual curiosity as well as integrity and honesty—this is a woman who has a genuine concern for the well-being of others and is committed to improving our lives and those of women in the future. I could not be more pleased to rise today to join Connecticut NOW, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my heart-felt congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Mazure as she receives this very special award. Carolyn has left an indelible mark on her field, our community and indeed our nation. It is a legacy that will continue to influence public policy and the health of women for generations to come.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-31)

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, for the third time I will vote in strong support of H.R. 1591, The Iraq Accountability Act. This time I will vote to override the President's veto of this critical legislation. With U.S. troop levels in Iraq increasing towards 170,000, all of whom are in the middle of a civil war; it is an act of political gamesmanship, not executive leadership, for President Bush to veto this legislation. With this veto, President Bush, with the strong support of his Republican minority in Congress, rejected \$95.5 billion for our troops in harm's way and walks away from billions in needed funds for our veterans. The President vetoed this bill and rejected providing our troops with needed training, mandatory rest time, and an exit strategy from a civil war in Iraq.

This presidential veto sends a clear message to Congress and to the overwhelming majority of American people who are demanding a change in this administration's Iraq policy. The message is this: the White House has no intentions of holding Iraq's political leaders accountable for the future of their country. They have no intention of honoring the benchmarks his administration has established for measuring success in Iraq. And, President Bush has no intention of ending the U.S. military's presence in Iraq during his remaining 20 months in the White House. The only timetable this president is likely to honor will result in him walking out of the White House on January 20, 2009, leaving behind more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops in Iraq and the greatest foreign policy disaster in American history for a new president to address.

The Democratic majority in this House have made the needs of our troops, our veterans and our Nation's security our top priority. Unlike the minority in Congress and the White