

revealed that the Privacy Officer was not brought into the development of a new National Applications Office, NAO, that would monitor the use of spy satellites for homeland security purposes, until almost 2 years after the development stage began.

Bringing in the Privacy Office at the 11th hour is not the proper way to blend in privacy protections and appropriate safeguards before policies and programs are underway.

Placing Privacy Officers in the component agencies that make up the Department of Homeland Security is the first step to ensuring that privacy protections are in place at the beginning of the process.

The Component agencies are the pulse of the Homeland Security Department. Most homeland security efforts stem from Component Agency actions.

Privacy Officers need to be where the action is happening, not waiting for a phone call after decisions have already been made.

Under the current structure, the Privacy Office has to rely on Component Agencies for information concerning programs and policies that impact privacy rights. Sometimes this happens; sometimes it does not.

When it does not happen, the risk is clear:

Recently, the Department's Inspector General determined that the Science & Technology Directorate's ADVISE program should be cancelled due to privacy concerns.

This determination was made after the Department spent \$42 million on the program.

It was also determined that the Chief Privacy Office was not brought into the process until almost 2 years after the system had been deployed.

This bill would put a Privacy Officer in the Science & Technology Directorate.

Moreover, the Automated Targeting System, which is a Customs & Border Protection program, has been heavily criticized by privacy advocates, and after two separate requests for public comments, the future of this program remains unclear. Again, this was a program that had operated for some time in the dark without proper safeguards and departmental oversight.

Pursuant to this bill, CBP would get a Privacy Officer as well.

Quite frankly, there has been a litany of DHS programs that have been cancelled, delayed, or discontinued due to privacy concerns. Almost all of these were the products of Department Component Agencies that do not have a Privacy Officer within their ranks.

Additionally, the DHS Privacy Officer is responsible for conducting Privacy Impact Assessments on DHS programs and policies affecting privacy.

There are currently over 150 Privacy Impact Assessments that need to be completed. To put this number in perspective, in all of 2006, the Privacy Office only published 25.

This bill will help in decreasing that overload.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation that is critical to not only the privacy rights but the security of our country as well.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ROBIN DANIELSON ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, Robin Danielson's two daughters will never forget the tragic day in Speaker, 1998 when their mother died at the age of 44. Nor will they forget the preventable illness that killed her.

Like thousands of others, Robin Danielson was the victim of Toxic Shock Syndrome, TSS, a rare but potentially life-threatening illness that is often linked to high-absorbency tampon use. Robin's death could have been prevented if only she had recognized the symptoms. Yet, even today, many women are not fully aware of the risks of tampon use or TSS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one to two of every 100,000 women between the ages of 15–44 years old will be diagnosed with TSS each year. Yet, the last national surveillance was conducted in 1987 and in only four States. Moreover, although TSS is a nationally notifiable disease that States report to CDC, reporting by the States is voluntary. Dismissed as "sporadic," the CDC has not even released this information to the public since 2003. Clearly, we do not have enough transparent or timely information to evaluate the reality of TSS today.

The presence of dioxin—a probable cancer-causing agent—in tampons is also a major concern to women's health. Tampons currently sold in the United States are composed of rayon, cotton, or a combination of both. Alarmingly, rayon is produced from bleached wood pulp, and dioxin is a byproduct of chlorine bleaching of pulp. Although chlorine-free bleaching processes are available, most wood pulp manufacturers use elemental chlorine-free bleaching processes. These processes use chlorine dioxide as a bleaching agent and thus still produce dioxin. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, even 100 percent cotton tampons and completely chlorine-free tampons have trace amounts of dioxin due to decades of pollution that have led to the infiltration of dioxin in the air, water, and ground and thus can be found in both cotton and wood pulp.

The effects of dioxin are cumulative. Women may be exposed to dioxin in tampons and other menstrual products for as long as 60 years over the course of their reproductive lives. Although the FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels in their finished products, this information is not readily available to the public.

I am proud to reintroduce the Robin Danielson Act, which would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a uniform program for the collection and analysis of data on Toxic Shock Syndrome. The bill also directs the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to conduct research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related products pose any health risks to women and asks the Centers for Disease Control, CDC to collect and report information on TSS.

IN HONOR OF FIREFIGHTERS PHILIP C. ADDISON, PROSPER W. BUCHHART, AND CHARLES W. STEWART OF THE KNICKERBOCKER HOOK & LADDER

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three men who have together given nearly 160 years of service as firefighters in North Jersey. This weekend the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company in Closter, New Jersey will honor these men at their golden anniversary of service. Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder has served the people of Closter since 1893. And, these men have been a part of nearly half of that century of service.

Philip Addison first joined the Closter Fire Department in March 1957. He served as Chief in 1970 and as President in 1972.

Prosper Buchhart joined the Closter Fire Department shortly after Philip, in December 1957, and has also served as Chief and President.

Charles Stewart started with Dumont Fire Company #2 in April 1949 and transferred to the Closter Fire Department 12 years later.

Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder was honored in 2001 by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County for the work of its volunteers to keep the people and businesses of Closter safe and secure. These 45 volunteers spend countless hours on call at work, in their homes, or at the firehouse, responding to about 275 calls a year. They also participate in constant training to ensure their skills are always sharp. In addition to giving selflessly of themselves to respond to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, these firefighters also provide fire prevention education to school children and have sponsored an Explorer Boy Scout Troop.

Philip Addison, Prosper Buchhart, and Charles Stewart exemplify the service and spirit that has long sustained this volunteer fire department and will sustain in for years to come. Their dedication to the public good is commendable and I join the people of Closter in honoring them as they reach this milestone in service.

## CONDOLENCES TO INTERSTATE 4 ACCIDENT VICTIMS

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the victims of the deadly 70-car pile up on Interstate 4 in Polk County, Florida earlier this month. I would also like to express appreciation for the work of many local and state agencies that responded to the accident and provided assistance.

I specifically would like to commend Polk County Sheriff Deputy Carlton Turner III who was the first deputy on the scene in the early morning hours of January 9th, and who used his vehicle as a barrier and later a place of refuge for victims. I would also like to commend Deputy Paul Buoniconti, who was also

on the scene very early and provided critical assistance to the victims.

In emergency situations it is rightly expected that government agencies respond and help citizens in need. The Polk County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Grady Judd, provided critical incident command services and logistical support for many responding agencies—and they did an outstanding job.

During the course of this accident, agencies that came together to provide critical support included the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Fire Department, the Auburndale Police Department, the Haines City Police Department, the Lake Alfred Police Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State of Florida State Emergency Response Team, the Polk County Emergency Medical Services, Polk County Fire Rescue and Osceola County Fire Rescue.

The State of Florida is often credited with having one of the best—if not the best—emergency response models in the nation, and the combined efforts of all responding agencies earlier this month exemplified this well. Their service likely prevented an even greater number of deaths or injuries, and I thank them for their work and service.

#### RECOGNIZING BILL AND BRADLEY GARR

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the father and son team of Bill and Bradley Garr. I use the word, "team" because on the afternoon of June 29, 2007, their actions helped save the life of an automobile accident victim.

On that day, as they were traveling along a Phoenix freeway, they witnessed a car go out of control and flip over. They were the first ones to stop to render aid to the seriously injured young woman who was driving. Due to the smoking engine and leaking gasoline, they needed to remove the woman from her car. They then used a fire extinguisher to make sure that a fire did not ensue. By the time fire and paramedics responded, the fire danger was over and the young woman was in a safe place.

While many others kept driving, Bill made the decision to stop and help, and in so doing demonstrated to Bradley important values that will last a lifetime.

I commend Bill and Bradley for their actions, and congratulate them on their selfless actions.

HONORING REKHA CHANDRA  
SEKARAN'S SERVICE TO TEN-  
NESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Rekha Chandrasekaran for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Rekha hails from Monterey, California—just 2,339 miles away from Monterey, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. Despite the difference in geography, Rekha has been a great help to me and my staff and has helped me to better represent Middle Tennesseans.

During her four years in the office, she has proven herself to be a strong writer and a talented systems administrator as she worked to launch a new Web site for the office. She has also taken on the task of coordinating a crew of interns each year and shepherding them throughout the Halls of Congress and around the nation's capital.

February 1 is Rekha's last day in the office, as she is leaving to pursue other opportunities on Capitol Hill. My staff and I thank Rekha for her help, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING HOUSTON MAYOR LOUIE WELCH

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the city of Houston recently lost a Texas Gentleman and great civic leader. Former Houston Mayor Louie Welch died on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. He was 89 years old. Mayor Welch's contributions to Houston government will impact generations of city residents that now enjoy a better quality of life and greater economic opportunity.

Louie Welch was born on Dec. 9, 1918 in the west Texas town of Lockney. Welch was an industrious boy who performed many tasks to earn money such as sell magazines, deliver milk and sell popcorn for a nickel a bag. In high school, he participated in debate and was elected president of his senior class. These activities were an early sign of his life-long interest in politics.

Welch attended Abilene Christian University and graduated in 1940 with a history degree. While in college, he met his future wife, Lola Faye Cure and they were married on Dec. 17, 1940. They later had five children. After Lola Faye died, Louie married Helen.

After graduating from college, his political career began in 1949 as a Houston city councilman. He served four terms as council member. With a tough political resolve, he ran for Houston mayor four times before finally becoming successful. Welch served as mayor of Houston from 1964 to 1973.

His mother's religious influence left a permanent impression with Welch who, in addi-

tion to graduating from a Christian university, was a member of Garden Oaks Church of Christ for more than 35 years and frequently quoted from the Bible throughout his life. I had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees at Abilene Christian University with the Mayor.

Mayor Welch will be remembered for a rich legacy of vital construction projects that he helped oversee to completion which improved city services and prepared for future growth in Houston. These projects included construction of Bush Intercontinental Airport, Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston reservoirs which provided much needed water supplies for Houston's rapidly growing residential and commercial areas. Welch's other projects involved closing down inefficient sewer treatment plants, starting the cleanup of the Houston Ship Channel and bayou beautification.

His leadership abilities also extended into national positions with Welch serving as vice president of the National League of Cities from 1970 to 1973 and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 1972 to 1973.

Mayor Welch was a man who loved Houston tremendously. He joked that he didn't tell his sons that they were born in that "northern" city of Dallas until they were much older to protect them from the horrible truth for as long as possible.

He was known for his witty observations on Texas politics and himself. He once said, "When I was elected mayor I spent the better part of my first term weeding out the political appointees I had inherited from my predecessor. Virtually all of my second term, I spent weeding out my own political appointees."

Welch even served a brief stint as guest weatherman for the local TV channel ABC 13. When weatherman Ed Brandon gave the forecast for the chance of rain one day, Mayor Welch was hiding above him in the studio on a ladder and dumped a bucket of water on Brandon's head. He told the very surprised weatherman, "You never get that right. Let's face it: it's always 50 percent. Either it's going to rain or it's not going to rain."

Following his years as mayor, Welch went to work for the Houston Chamber of Commerce, which later became the Greater Houston Partnership, and served as president of the organization for 12 years.

I met the Mayor when I was a teenager. I showed up at the Garden Oaks Church of Christ one Wednesday night seeking out a local girl. The Mayor cornered me and wanted to know who I was and my intentions. I was quite intimidated by the 5'6" Mayor, but after the interrogation, I was approved to speak to the girl—but she still turned me down for a date).

Years later, I went to see the Mayor, then President of the Houston Chamber, because I had decided to run as a Republican for State District Judge in Houston. Being a political nobody and novice I needed sound political advice from an expert. The Mayor told me no Republican had been elected to a state judgeship in Houston since Reconstruction. So, he recommended instead that I run for the non-partisan position of City Council, because Houstonians preferred "nobodies" over Republicans. I did overcome the handicap of being a Republican and for years appreciated his wise political counsel when I served as a judge.

When I taught an Adult Sunday School Class at Bammel Church of Christ, Louie and