

in additional revenue, Mr. Apple said. The increases would be phased in starting next year, pending approval from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple also said that assuming no new governmental financing became available in coming months, they were planning to eliminate all of the agency's community-based programs, including 94 community centers and 147 senior centers operated by the agency or the city's Department for the Aging in public housing.

In addition, scores of programs that serve youth and provide tenants with job training and arts and athletics activities, among other things, would end. The plan, which Mr. Apple and Mr. Hernandez said would save the agency \$68 million annually, would shutter all of the community and senior centers in the Housing Authority's 343 developments. It has already started the process, announcing in February that 19 "underutilized" community centers would close.

"As chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, I am here to tell you today that the future of public housing is at stake," Mr. Hernandez told council members. He added that because city, state and federal budgets did not include new financing for the agency, "we have no choice but to begin to implement the actions that I have described."

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple also spoke about continuing efforts to sell or lease parking lots and vacant land for market-rate development.

Council members said they were stunned by the agency's dire financial situation, and though they vowed to help preserve public housing, a few members expressed disappointment at plans to raise rents and close community and senior centers.

Senior citizens in particular are vulnerable to being relegated "to the dark ages, when we didn't have any programs at all," said Councilman James Vacca, of the Bronx, adding, "I hope you know that there's no one there to fill this gap should this occur."

The Housing Authority's operating budget for this year is \$2.8 billion. More than half of that money comes from subsidies from HUD.

The annual operational subsidy HUD has given to the Housing Authority has fluctuated in recent years, from \$747 million in 2001 to \$780 million in 2007.

But the gap between the money the Housing Authority was eligible for and the money it ultimately received has widened.

From 2001 to 2008, the Housing Authority lost a total of \$611 million in federal dollars, money it qualified for under a HUD spending formula but did not receive because of shortfalls in Congressional appropriations. Officials say that this year, the loss of that money means that for every federal dollar the agency needs to operate, it gets roughly 82 cents.

One hundred capital projects have been deferred or cut as the agency has used roughly \$370 million in capital financing to help balance its budget since 2002, and Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple said they will continue to do so. The Council speaker, Christine C. Quinn, told Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple that she found this practice troubling.

In an interview, Ms. Quinn said that council members want to help the agency stabilize its finances, but that a better long-term plan is needed that draws on city, state and federal governments. "All of us in city government are very troubled about the state of the Housing Authority's finances," she said.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIAM F. LAUBENSTEIN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor TSgt William F. Laubenstein's service to our country in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

On January 17, 1941 William Laubenstein enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a cadet at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. After completing flight instruction he was assigned as a Radio Operator/Gunner of a B-17 Flying Fortress with the 384th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force in England.

From October 14, 1943 to May 8, 1944, TSgt William Laubenstein flew 26 recorded missions during World War II over the Continental Europe. In April of 1944 the number of missions required to complete a tour had risen to 35; Bill had nine more missions left. On the 26th mission, May 8, 1944, Bill's B-17 referred to as "Little Barney" was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the crew were forced to bail. Over the course of the impact to the plane, Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was injured in his hip by flak.

From the fields of France, Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was taken to a German Prisoner of War camp located in Poland. Bill was a Prisoner of War from May 8, 1944 until May 8, 1945. After almost a year at the POW camp he endured a 90-day forced march sometimes referred to as The Black March, which covered approximately 1,000 miles across the Polish and German countryside. On May 1, 1945 Bill was released from the POW camp when the German guards abandoned the camp.

Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and the Honorable Lapel Button.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Technical Sergeant Laubenstein who has now been appropriately awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, the Prisoner of War Medal from May 8, 1944 to May 8 1945, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for his commitment to defending our country and the sacrifices he has made on behalf of the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on June 4, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 374. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 374 "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN BARR DURING HIS TENURE AS AN EDITOR AND RE- PORTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Stephen Barr, noted columnist and journalist that paved the way for today's journalistic generation.

Throughout his career at the Washington Post, Stephen Barr has served as an anchor to both the columnist writing community and the avid readers of the newspaper. During his 20 years at the Washington Post, he has worked as an Editor and Reporter serving in the Metro News, Style National News, and the Column departments of the newspaper.

In May 2000, he was selected as the Federal Dairy Columnist after serving 7 years as a National Staff Writer covering Federal management and personnel issues, 'Reinventing Government,' the U.S. Postal Service, Veterans' Affairs, the Congressional Appropriations Process, and Government Technology challenges, including the widely known year 2000 computer glitch.

Steve Barr was born and raised in Nocona Texas, a 1967 graduate of Nocona High School and a 1971 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. He also served 2 years in the U.S. Army, including 1 year with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.

With deep appreciation and admiration for his continued service, I thank Mr. Stephen Barr and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM ANIMALS ANTI-CRUELTY ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, Mr. SHAYS and I are pleased to introduce today the Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act.

This bill would make it a Federal offense to, without justification, kill, mutilate, disfigure, torture or intentionally inflict pain or suffering upon an animal raised for food, or to fail to provide food, water and shelter.

By making these acts a Federal offense, this bill provides a powerful disincentive and punishment for unjustified or intentional cruelty. The ability to bring a Federal prosecution is a strong deterrent. Finally, this bill articulates a powerful message in expressing the national importance we place on the treatment of farm animals.

The Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act is a commonsense approach to combating animal cruelty on farms. It complements State anti-cruelty statutes and provides a national anti-cruelty standard in those States that do not currently provide standards.

This bill is just one step, but an important step, in addressing how our society treats

farm animals raised for food, and it reflects our core values of compassion, decency and mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE PONTIAC VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation as they dedicate the Pontiac Veterans Memorial on June 7, 2008. This memorial is the culmination of countless hours of hardwork and dedication shown by the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation.

In 1998, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation started their memorial project by collecting the names of every Pontiac resident that had served our country since the Revolutionary War. Two years and over 3,800 names later, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation was ready to design a memorial to honor these brave individuals. Understanding the importance of involving the community, the members asked students from the local schools to create designs for the memorial. The ultimate selection was designed by William Holland, a student at Notre Dame High School in Pontiac.

With a design in hand and a location overlooking veterans' burial plots, which was donated by the Perry Mount Cemetery, the corporation sought out funding for the memorial. The community heard their call and answered with an outpouring of support, from individual donors to group donations from organizations like the Disabled American Veterans of Pontiac, The Chrysler Foundation, and General Motors Corporation. The memorial stands as a living tribute bearing the names of everyone who has served this great country.

In addition to recognizing the tireless efforts of the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation, I would like to highlight the work of their president, Jack Bressler. A veteran himself, Jack spearheaded the project, and I commend him for the countless hours he has invested to turn this dream into a reality.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation for all they have done to honor our brave and selfless veterans. I congratulate them as they dedicate this memorial and commend the entire community for all the support they have shown.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JASON BROWN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a Magnolia, Texas, native, SSG Jason Brown, who was killed in Iraq on April 17, 2008.

America was formed in the crucible of the Revolutionary War and hardened during the tragedy of the Civil War. We demonstrated our

willingness to carry the standard of freedom during World War II. During these, and numerous other times in America's history, our Nation's finest young men have answered the call and stepped forward to serve their Nation and protect the cause of liberty. Staff Sergeant Brown honored the sacrifice of those who answered the call before him by stepping forward in another time of national crisis; after the cowardly attacks of September 11th and at the dawn of the war in Iraq.

Just days after the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003, Sergeant Brown joined the Army and the next year earned one of the Army's most revered symbols: the Green Beret worn by members of the elite Special Forces. After enlisting in Magnolia and completing his training, Sergeant Brown was serving with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Sergeant Brown was on his second deployment to Iraq and had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

I come forward to honor Sergeant Brown in the truest sense of the word. Men and women like Sergeant Brown are truly deserving of our profound esteem and recognition. Stories of their courage fortify us and inspire us to better ourselves, our communities and our country. We are reminded what it means to sincerely serve others and defend a truly noble cause: the cause of liberty and freedom. It is with faith in Almighty God that we are able to find solace and peace at a time when our collective heart breaks. The deep sadness I feel can be nothing compared to the grief that is felt by Sergeant Brown's daughter, Alyssa, his parents, James and Rosemary, and the friends and family of those who have died serving their Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places abroad. An emptiness has been created where Sergeant Brown existed for those who knew him and I know my words will do little to fill it; I can only offer my prayers and the sympathy of a grieving Nation. Sergeant Brown will be missed at holiday celebrations and will never have the chance to walk his little girl down the aisle, but I hope his family knows that they have the deepest respect and gratitude that a nation can offer.

With each soldier's life that is taken from us too early, we are renewed in our commitment to spreading the light of liberty to people and countries that have never witnessed it. The Gospel of Luke reminds us that, ". . . to whom much is given, from him much will be required." America has been given much and much continues to be required. America was unique in its founding and put forth the new idea that the state would serve as the insurer of individual liberty and freedom. We continue to espouse the very best ideas of our founding, with Sergeant Brown acting as the modern day champion of that cause by standing where few would and ultimately paying for that unflinching bravery with his life.

The reverence we have for all those who serve and, especially, for Sergeant Brown and all those men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom transcends political affiliation and ideological differences. We put down our partisan assaults and pause to pay tribute to the very best of our country. It is my distinct honor to represent our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast

Guardsmen in the greatest legislative body the world has ever known. Let us never forget that this body's existence was made possible by the sacrifice of men and women like Sergeant Brown and let our work here honor their memory and the memory of those who will fall tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I hope those in the Chamber and those watching at home will join me in offering our most heartfelt prayers for Sergeant Brown, his family and all those families who have lost a son, a father, a daughter, a mother, a best friend, a wife, or a husband in the cause of liberty. Let us always remember their courage and the courage of their comrades who remain in distant jungles or far-flung deserts across the globe. Let us never forget their sacrifice, nor those they leave behind.

GAMBRO BCT, INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gambro BCT, Inc., and the Gambro employees for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Community Service Award.

Gambro BCT is a frontrunner in the blood bank technology industry in Colorado, with advancements designed to improve results for the greater good of the community.

In addition, Gambro and its employees have quietly made an incredible difference for thousands of people through their volunteer blood drives. In 2007, they hosted a total of 12 drives and collected 424 units of blood, helping to save 1,272 lives. In 2008 they are scheduled to host 12 more drives with collections projected at 447 units. These services result in immeasurable benefits and are decidedly worthy of this prestigious award.

Companies such as Gambro BTC are imperative in communities across the United States, and recognition must be given to their dedicated employees as well. Congratulations on your fine work. I offer my strong encouragement to them to continue their dedicated and excellent efforts.

PUBLIC LAND COMMUNITIES TRANSITION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support.

The bill will reauthorize for four years the "Secure Rural Schools" program under which payments are made to certain counties in which national forest lands are located. Currently, the program is scheduled to expire at the end of this month.

This program is important for Colorado as well as other Western States. Last year, payments under the program to Colorado counties amounted to more than \$6.4 million, helping to