

join the workforce. Regardless of the path, their unique strengths and talents will sustain America and her standing on the global stage. Although the task may sound great and daunting, these achievers have shown both grit and giftedness over the past 4 years and will surely rise to the challenge with poise and a sense of purpose.

But for today, we celebrate and congratulate, keeping an eye on the greatness that lies in store for them and this Nation.

HONORING MR. JAMES ARNOLD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations to Mr. James Arnold, environmental restoration manager for the Oregon National Guard. He was recently awarded the Secretary of the Army's FY07 Environmental Restoration Award for contributions made by an individual. This is the Army's highest honor in the field of environmental science, and Mr. Arnold is the year's only individual to be recognized.

As the Federal Government's largest property holder, the Department of Defense has a significant responsibility to ensure its lands are sustainably managed. Mr. Arnold's success proves that government can be a good partner to communities and the environment. His innovative approaches to resource management and remediation are a credit to Oregonian ingenuity and environmental stewardship.

I am particularly impressed by the large-scale range remediation at Camp Withycombe, located in my district. For years, I have advocated for increased awareness and funding for the cleanup of our ranges and legacy sites. This work is immensely challenging and I am impressed with Mr. Arnold's creative, cost-effective, and above all, successful approach to this problem.

I am proud that the Oregon Army National Guard is at the forefront of the Army's efforts to transform its environmental and business practices.

Mr. Arnold, thank you for your outstanding service to Oregon and our country. I wish you the best of luck in your future work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes during the late afternoon and evening of May 22, 2008. For the information of our colleagues and my constituents, I want the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes I missed that day.

On rollcall 355, on the Akin amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 356, on the Franks amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 357, on the Tierney amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 358, on the Pearce amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 359, on the Lee amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 360, on the Braley amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 361, on the Price amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 362, on the Holt amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 363, on the McGovern amendment to H.R. 5658, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 364, on the Motion to Recommit with instructions the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (H.R. 5658), I would have voted "no."

I would have done so because the Motion to Recommit—as written—would have effectively killed the bill by sending it back to Committee. I also objected to what the Motion attempted to do. It would have repealed Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, which ensures that federal agencies do not procure or promote alternative fuels that emit, on a lifecycle basis, more greenhouse gas emissions than equivalent conventional fuels produced from conventional petroleum sources. This provision relates primarily to efforts of the Department of Defense to obtain half of its domestically used fuel from domestic synthetic sources by 2016. Specifically, the Air Force is pursuing "coal-to-liquid" fuel (CTL). According to both the EPA and DOE, liquid coal produces double the global warming emissions compared to conventional gasoline.

An amendment adopted on the floor clarified Section 526 to ensure that federal agencies could procure conventional fuels that contain incidental amounts of unconventional fuels. With the passage of this amendment, it is my belief that there is no reason to repeal Section 526, since the Department of Defense has said that it intends to pursue CTL with carbon capture and sequestration. In addition, the Defense Science Board Task Force on Energy recommended that if DOD decides to provide financial backing to synthetic fuel production plants, it should avoid investing in processes that exceed the carbon footprint of petroleum.

On rollcall 365, on Passage of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (H.R. 5658), I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 366, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to H. Res. 986, a resolution recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict, I would have voted "yes."

The resolution recognizes the 35th anniversary of "Operation Homecoming," when the first wave of the longest-held POWs from Vietnam left that country to return to the United States. We honor those POWs, but we also honor those brave heroes who fought and died for our country but never returned home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, due to a flight cancellation, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 9, 2008:

Rollcall vote 388, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1225, expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month"—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 389, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1243, recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day—I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 390, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 127, recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State—I would have voted "aye."

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN BERLIN, AND A SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the recent district work period I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) meetings in Berlin, from May 23–27. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. Participating in the delegation were Representatives MARION BERRY, JOHN BOOZMAN, BEN CHANDLER, JO ANN EMERSON, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, RALPH REGULA, DENNIS MOORE, DAVID SCOTT, and MIKE ROSS, and staff worked to make this a successful trip in the examination of a number of key NATO issues.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly brings together members of parliaments of the NATO allies, as well as observer participants from NATO partner states such as Russia and Ukraine, for discussions of current issues of interest to the alliance. Members attend committee meetings where reports are read and debated. The meetings afford an opportunity to sound parliamentarians from allied states on public opinion, defense and foreign policy, and trends in thinking on issues of mutual interest. The meetings also provide the opportunity to come to know members of parliaments on a long-term basis, an invaluable asset in developing insights into policy development in allied governments.

After the Assembly meetings in Berlin, the delegation traveled on to Turkey and Afghanistan, where we explored issues that I will address in a moment.

Recurrent themes on key NATO issues were evident in the Berlin committee meetings. Above all, NATO's International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was a constant topic of discussion. It is clear that ISAF needs more combat personnel, and that caveats—restrictions that allies place on the use of their forces—are adversely affecting efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. Energy security, Russia's foreign policy objectives, defense capabilities, and Iran were also important areas of discussion.

I am chairman of the NPA's Committee on Economics and Security. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that our friend and colleague, RALPH REGULA, continued his long and distinguished service on that committee during the Berlin meetings. His contributions over many years have been invaluable.

Representative BOOZMAN and a Lithuanian colleague presented a well-received report in the Economics Committee on India's economy. India plays an important role in south Asia, and U.S.-Indian relations have strengthened over the past decade. India's proximity to Afghanistan and its often tense relations with Pakistan play a role in the stabilization of that volatile area. The Indian economy has opened up in recent years, and there is clear evidence of a growing middle class in the world's largest democracy. There was also a report on the Afghan economy, which must grow and diversify more rapidly if Afghanistan is to stabilize. The report emphasized the negative effects of Afghanistan's extensive poppy culture and poor governance on ISAF's stabilization efforts.

Our friend and former colleague, Doug Beuter, who was once president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, gave an interesting presentation on the efforts of the Asia Foundation, which he now heads, to assist schools and women in Afghanistan and other parts of Asia. His report, a version of which he also presented in the Political Committee, was enlightening and extremely well-received.

The Political Committee is normally the most contentious of the Assembly's committees, and that was once again true. As I mentioned, Russia sends observers to the Assembly who may participate in debates, but who may not vote. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a former Russian general and candidate for the Russian presidency, is now a member of parliament, and he made his presence frequently felt. He repeatedly denounced NATO and its efforts to stabilize the Balkans and Afghanistan as "terrorist" incursions in Russia's supposedly legitimate sphere of influence. The Russian delegates have chosen during the past several years to play a disruptive role in Assembly proceedings.

Representative ROSS delivered a well-received report in the Political Committee on "NATO and Iran," which looked forward prospectively to ways that the alliance might work with the EU and the U.N. to induce Tehran to terminate its nuclear enrichment program that is in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. His ideas ranged from political pressure to greater economic sanctions to carrots in the form of limited military confidence-building measures in return for a cessation of Iran's illegitimate nuclear activities. I should mention that Representative CHANDLER is a vice-chairman of the Political Committee, and he played an active role in a number of sessions.

The Committee on Defense and Security also engaged in some interesting debates. ISAF's prospects in Afghanistan were sharply debated. The representatives of several allies, such as Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands that have combat forces in Afghanistan, urged

other allies to contribute more troops and to lift their caveats. The debate was sharp at times. ISAF now has 52,000 troops, of which approximately 22,000 are from the United States. The Russians continued their erratic behavior in the Defense Committee, denouncing the allies' stabilization efforts in Afghanistan. Rep. SHIMKUS is the vice-chair of the Subcommittee on Transatlantic Defense and Security Cooperation, and he made several valuable interventions on such issues as the need for allies to spend more on defense, and on NATO's efforts to stabilize the Caucasus.

Two of our colleagues play key roles in the Assembly's Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security. Representative MOORE is vice-chairperson of the Committee on Civil Dimension, and Representative EMERSON is vice-chairperson of the Subcommittee on Democratic Governance. Each made important contributions to the debates in the Civil Dimension Committee. An interesting discussion took place in response to a report on NATO and energy security. Representative SCOTT made a valuable contribution in detailing ways that NATO could play a constructive role in building energy security and thereby enhancing global security.

The Committee on Science and Technology also heard a report on energy security. The German rapporteur contended that Russia is a reliable supplier of oil and natural gas for Europe, a controversial point of view that some believe is contradicted by Moscow's occasional cut-offs of energy to Ukraine, Georgia, and Lithuania. Increasingly, our European allies are dependent on Russian energy resources, a development that could open the door to Russian pressure and influence in NATO in the event of a crisis. Representative SCOTT chided the Russians for not having ratified the Energy Charter Treaty, which obligates signatories to follow market practices and disavow the use of energy as a political tool. Representative SHIMKUS raised the point that diversification of supply and types of fuels is key to enhancing energy security. This was a forceful debate on an issue that is likely to engage NATO's interest in the decades to come.

The last day of the Assembly's meetings was spent in a plenary session. There were a number of interesting speakers, including the German foreign minister and the NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. De Hoop Scheffer urged the parliamentarians to go back to their publics and make the case for the importance of developing reliable, deployable combat forces, and for making a meaningful contribution to ISAF's efforts in Afghanistan. A German general also spoke. The Russian Zhirinovskiy again made his presence felt when he claimed, to the amazement and amusement of the delegates, that Russia had generously brought down the Berlin wall and made democracy possible in East Germany. He contended that NATO would fail in Afghanistan, just as Russia had. The German general—General Ramm—calmly replied that Russia failed in Afghanistan because it had sought a military solution, and that NATO would succeed because it is seeking a political solution.

Our delegation had an interesting private meeting with Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer, during which we had a highly informative discussion of such issues as Afghanistan, energy security, and Iran's relations with its neighbors. The delegation also met with the U.S. ambassador to NATO, Victoria Nuland,

who gave us her valuable perspective on the issues that she considers to be most important on the NATO agenda. We also visited the new U.S. embassy, near the line of the old Berlin wall, and met with our ambassador, William Timken. During a dinner the final night of our meetings, German Chancellor Angela Merkel sat at my table, and we had a lively discussion about a range of issues of mutual interest.

After the meetings in Berlin, we flew to Turkey for meetings with a range of senior Turkish officials. Turkey remains a key ally, perhaps even more important than it was during the Cold War. Turkey's strategic location—on the Bosphorus and the Black Sea, facing the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and on the route of critical energy supplies—is vital to NATO security. In addition, Turkey is a Muslim country and a democracy. An important issue confronting Turkey is its application to join the European Union, a step that some EU governments strongly oppose. Today, there is a vigorous discussion in Turkey about the role of Islam in society. An Islamic Party, the Justice and Development Party (AKP), led by prime minister Tayyip Erdogan, is in a protracted but restrained contest for power with other parties and the Turkish military. On May 28 the delegation met with specialists in Istanbul who represent a range of views in Turkey's academic and journalistic world on the country's future, and on the debate over the role of Islam and secularism in Turkish society.

Our meetings in Istanbul prepared us for our visit the next day to Ankara, where we held a succession of meetings with senior government officials. We met with prime minister Erdogan, with whom we had a direct but constructive discussion over U.S.-Turkish relations and on Turkey's future. We then met with our former NATO Parliamentary Assembly colleague, Abdullah Gul, now the president of Turkey and also a member of the AKP. We had a very cordial discussion on a range of issues. It is clear that U.S.-Turkish relations have improved since November 2007, when the United States began to assist Turkey in its effort to subdue the Kurdish terrorist movement known as the PKK, which is seeking to carve away Turkish territory and unite it with part of northern Iraq, where Kurds also live. Finally, we had a meeting with the defense minister Vecdi Gonul, a civilian who is an important link for the AKP to the Turkish military. We are hoping that our Turkish friends in the political parties and the military will resolve their differences peacefully, and that Turkish democracy will be strengthened.

While in Ankara, the delegation went to the tomb of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. I laid a wreath and signed a memorial book in honor of the man who established the secular Turkish state. It was a solemn occasion on a brilliantly bright, sunny day.

After our meetings in Ankara, that night the delegation proceeded to Adana, where the Turkish military base Incirlik is located. U.S. forces, with Turkish permission, fly supply missions to Iraq and Afghanistan from Incirlik. Adana and the base are located near the Syrian border. The following morning we met with the governor of Adana, who gave us a briefing on PKK activity and on political developments in the Adana region. He was a strong advocate of Turkish membership in the EU, which he believes would strengthen Turkish democracy.

At Incirlik, we also had the opportunity to meet with some of our troops who are from our constituencies. These are the young men and women that make the United States safe and secure, whether serving here or in distant places. We should keep them in our thoughts as we appreciate the stability and security that we enjoy here in the United States.

By chance, we crossed paths at Incirlik with Gen. David Petraeus, who was at the base for a brief stay. He offered to meet with the delegation, and there was an interesting exchange of views on a range of strategic issues.

On May 31 we left Incirlik at an early hour for the flight to Kabul, where we spent the entire day. The stabilization of Afghanistan is NATO's principal mission. Many believe that NATO's credibility is on the line in Afghanistan because the allies have pledged to commit the resources to stabilize the country to prevent the reappearance of a failed state, a failed state that caused the tragedy of 9/11. There are clearly differences in the alliance over how to accomplish this objective. Some governments prefer to employ economic reconstruction assistance and avoid sending their troops into combat; these tend to be the governments that have the most restrictive caveats on their forces.

We met with the most senior U.S. officials in Kabul to discuss Afghanistan's path to stabilization. Our meetings were highly substantive, and we all gained valuable information on ISAF's effort and on U.S. perspectives and initiatives. We also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and had an extensive discussion of Afghanistan's problems and prospects.

In Afghanistan, there can be no reconstruction without security. The Taliban is not a strong force, but the Afghan state lacks strong, enduring institutions. There must be security therefore for the rebuilding effort to succeed. ISAF may need more forces in the coming year in order to secure territory cleared of the Taliban. A positive development is that approximately 25% of the combat missions are now led by the Afghan National Army (ANA), with strong backing from the U.S. and some other NATO militaries. During our meetings in Kabul, U.S. officials were upbeat on the progress of the ANA, but the task of securing Afghanistan is far from finished. The poppy crop continues to thrive in the south, some warlords maintain a sway over territory that has never been under the control of an Afghan government, and there are enduring tribal rivalries and distrust of Kabul.

Closely associated with the issue of engagement of the Taliban in combat is the need to establish a viable economy and justice system. The Soviet and Taliban eras decimated the educated elite. The number of persons trained as lawyers and judges is minimal. At the base of the justice system is the police. The EU has struggled to develop a program to train the police, so the U.S. military has stepped in. Gen. Cone is developing more professional police cohorts one region at a time, and backing them with the U.S. military until they establish their authority. This will be a long-term effort, and it is going to require patience on the part of NATO publics.

Members and staff also met with U.S. participants in ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), the leading edge of bringing reconstruction to Afghanistan through such efforts as road building, school and hospital con-

struction, and the development of local markets. A basic economy has begun to appear around some of the PRTs, but there remains much to accomplish.

There are three key needs for the PRTs. The first is the placement of agricultural specialists in each of the 26 ISAF PRTs. The United States only recently placed one agricultural specialist at each of its 13 PRTs; the need is great for agricultural specialists at other NATO PRTs, and in the local agricultural schools. Afghanistan is and will remain for the foreseeable future an agrarian economy, now dependent largely on poppies. This poppy culture must diminish over time, perhaps to be replaced by orchard crops and wheat. This effort will take time.

A second need for the PRTs is the hiring of local Afghans who can assist our own officials in understanding local practices and political authority, and who can serve as guides as we plan efforts to rebuild the country.

A third need for the PRTs is the availability of transport. Today, our civilians in the PRTs must rely heavily on the military to move them around the region where they live. But because security comes first, the civilian specialists must often wait lengthy periods of time to obtain the transport and accompanying security to accomplish their tasks.

Our trip to Afghanistan was highly informative and there remains much to digest about what we learned. This was a difficult, but valuable trip that provided insights into one of the United States' most difficult foreign policy problems.

As always we were extremely well-served by our accompanying military personnel. The 932nd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve now at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., provided exceptional professionalism in assisting us throughout our trip and ensuring our safety in moving throughout Europe and to Afghanistan. All worked long hours to ensure that our trip went smoothly. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 9, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 388 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1225), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 389 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1243), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 390 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 127).

HONORING DR. I.C. TURNLEY, JR.,
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
LASALLE PARISH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., who for

the last 50 years has faithfully served the people of Jena, LA, and LaSalle Parish through his medical practice, which he first opened on July 1, 1958.

While enrolled as a pre-med student at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA, Dr. Turnley answered the call a great many in his generation answered. He put his education on hold and enrolled in the U.S. military to serve his country in World War II and was awarded commendation for his work at the U.S. Navy Hospital in San Diego. After his service, he returned home to Louisiana to complete his undergrad studies at Louisiana Tech and later earn his medical degree from Louisiana State University in 1956.

In addition to his private practice in Jena, Dr. Turnley served on staff at the Jena Hospital and later the LaSalle General Hospital when it was opened in the early 1970s. He also bears a unique distinction in the State of Louisiana as the longest serving elected official, having served as the parish coroner for the past 48 years.

Beyond his work as a physician, Dr. Turnley has been active in Masonic work in Jena and was elected as Grand Master of the Freemasons for the State of Louisiana in 1996.

The "Dr. Turnleys of the world" are the very ones who built up our Nation following World War II; they are the ones who are respected and admired in their communities, the ones who have dedicated not only their talents and abilities but their time and their compassion in an effort to help their fellow citizens. Yet, while many small communities may boast men and women like Dr. Turnley, to Jena, there is no other quite like him.

To honor him, Murphy McMillin, mayor of Jena, has declared Friday, June 20, 2008, as "Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr. Day."

Madam Speaker, Americans such as Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., deserve recognition from the United States Congress as well. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Turnley for all he has done for his community and his country.

CELEBRATING SYLVANIA OHIO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone anniversary for the City of Sylvania in my district. This month, Sylvania celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding.

Founded in 1833 by General David White and Judge William Wilson at the junction of Ten Mile and Ottawa Creeks near the present day border of Ohio and Michigan, the area was originally the campgrounds of Erie, Chippewa and Wyandot tribes. First settlers' names continue through generations, including Lathrop, Pease, Printup, Rice, Green and Cosgrove. They established the first Sylvania school and church early on: both the Stone Academy and First Presbyterian Church were established in 1834.

In 1876, the town was formally incorporated. Truly a sylvan glade with more than one thousand trees, Sylvania took its name from the