

Well respected among his peers, Mr. Rivera has displayed as much valor and courage in photojournalism as he once did in combat. His 1980 photograph capturing a store owner and an assailant under fire earned him the widely acclaimed international award for photography from the Agencia E.F.E. of Spain, becoming the first Puerto Rican to do so. This award was presented to Mr. Rivera by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain. His photograph was also shown at the "Expo 92" in Seville.

Mr. Rivera's latest photographic accomplishment is "Motín en el Capitolio," where he captures commotion in the Rotunda of the Puerto Rican Capitol. Mr. Rivera won an award from the Photojournalist Association of Puerto Rico for this photograph.

He has also received numerous awards from other organizations; such as the Madín Rodríguez Award sponsored by the Puerto Rican House of Representatives and the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico; and recognitions from the Puerto Rican Senate, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club. In 2006, he was selected by the Governor of Puerto Rico's Office of Veteran Affairs as one of the most accomplished and outstanding Puerto Rican veterans.

Mr. Rivera has also been actively involved with the community I represent in Congress. He has served as ambassador to the Bronx Puerto Rican Parade and provided press coverage to the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City for the past 18 years. His vivid photographs bring our communities together by capturing the rich Puerto Rican culture in New York.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Rivera, who currently resides in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. His service to our Nation is commendable. His contribution to photojournalism is invaluable. Mr. Rafael Angel Rivera epitomizes professional excellence and is an inspiration to us all.

IN SUPPORT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BILLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for these six bills brought forth by the Committee on Homeland Security. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their continued efforts and leadership on presenting legislation to enhance and strengthen our Nation's security. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues on the committee who authored these bills—Chairman THOMPSON, Congresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congressman DENT and Congressman LANGEVIN.

The enactment of H.R. 1, The Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act, was a major milestone for this Congress and I was proud to be a conferee to H.R. 1. With the passage of H.R. 1, Congress took the lead in making America more secure. H.R. 1 was a comprehensive measure to enhance our Nation's homeland security capabilities in profound ways.

The Homeland Security Committee has conducted numerous hearings to investigate the many areas covered by H.R. 1 and has worked diligently at developing legislation that focuses on specific areas of homeland security that require fine tuning in order to make H.R. 1 as effective as possible.

The bills being considered today will do everything from providing redress to Americans misidentified against the terror watch lists to enhancing DHS' capability to address the threat of improvised-explosive devices to ensuring the integrity of aviation security covert tests.

H.R. 4179, the Fast Redress Act of 2008, would enhance information sharing at DHS and between DHS and other Federal agencies that use the terrorist watch list or database. The bill also includes measures that would make the redress process more efficient and protect the civil rights of individuals on TSA's "Cleared List" and "No Fly" or "Selectee" lists.

H.R. 5909 is vitally important given the Committee's knowledge of at least three incidents that compromised the integrity of covert tests at TSA's screening checkpoints. It provides for security measures that would prevent disclosures that will jeopardize covert testing. H.R. 5982 will also enhance airport security by requiring information sharing on best practices for using biometrics to improve airport security. H. Res. 1150 recognizes the continued importance of rail security and ensuring that it is given equal importance in our national transportation security plans.

Bombing prevention is an integral part of our national security and requires that we provide the necessary resources for this purpose. H.R. 4749 does this by increasing funding and the capabilities of the Office of Bombing Prevention. Along similar lines, The Nuclear Forensics Attribution Act authorizes programs within DHS to develop an international framework to identify and intercept nuclear materials further reducing the possibilities of nuclear threat worldwide.

Lastly, I support H.R. 1333 which calls for both GAO and the DHS Secretary to examine and prepare a report on how the Civil Air Patrol can be integrated in our efforts to enhance national security and our war against terrorism. This is a positive effort in using local resources in supporting our homeland security mission.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills that have been thoughtfully crafted to enhance national security measures that are important to the implementation of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

FAREWELL TO ROC AMBASSADOR WU

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my best wishes to Dr. Joseph Jaushieh Wu and his family. After representing the Republic of China (Taiwan) for 1 year and 2 months, the Wu's will be leaving Washington this month.

Ambassador Wu graduated from National Chengchi University in Taiwan and earned his

Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University. He taught briefly at Ohio State and later at his alma mater, National Chengchi University. In 2002, he began his government career as Deputy Secretary-General to President Chen Shui-bian. From 2004 to April 2007, he was the chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council. He is the author of a number of publications, most notably, Taiwan's Democratization, published by Oxford University Press. In April 2007, he was appointed Taiwan's Representative to the United States.

As we all know, Taiwan has been undergoing profound political changes in recent years. With his strong communication skills, Ambassador Wu has given countless briefings to administration officials, senators, representatives and the media about Taiwan's internal politics, while at the same time, deftly highlighting Taiwan's willingness to negotiate with the People's Republic without pre-conditions. He has rightly emphasized Taiwan's strong political and cultural ties to the U.S., its trade relations with us, and its cooperation in combating global terrorism.

Today our government maintains a robust relationship with Taiwan because of leaders like Dr. Wu. We consider Taiwan a democratic ally and a strong trading partner. Nevertheless, due to the lack of official diplomatic relations between our two countries, it has not been always easy for Ambassador Wu to serve as interlocutor between our two governments. Despite all the challenges, Ambassador Wu has served his country with distinction and helped to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

I wish Ambassador Wu and his family the very best.

2008 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2008 Congressional Award recipients, honoring our Nation's young people who have achieved personal goals in the areas of volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration/development.

As public service volunteers, this year's recipients shared their time and talents for the benefit of others. Through selfless acts, they have demonstrated their devotion to community, displaying dedication, perseverance, and compassion.

In the area of personal development, recipient of the Congressional Award have gained life skills and knowledge as they developed a particular interest. While striving to achieve a personal goal of improvement, recipients exhibited immense personal growth.

As balanced individuals, recipients of the Congressional Award also strive for personal improvement in physical fitness as an effort to improve their quality of life, understanding the need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The process of exploration/development presented recipients with the opportunity to gain a sense of independence as they became engaged in the world around, whether

that experience occurred through an immersion in nature or through exposure to an unfamiliar culture.

Recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award have time and again shown their dedication to community, having learned the value of making a difference for the greater good. They are dedicated to all they do, striving for improvement while setting goals for personal achievement. I commend them as individuals of inspiration, a group worthy of the highest praise.

I would like to make special recognition of Caroline McMullen from Chesterland, Ohio. Caroline is a driven individual, having the conviction to reach out and achieve her goals. Her profound dedication to public service is integral to the betterment of her community; her actions are exemplary. As a fellow Ohioan, I am extremely proud of Caroline's accomplishments.

The following are honored recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award:

Mary-Lynn Piper, Chelsea Green, Sabrina Ilich, Zachary Somers, Katherine Connett, Erica Tong, Joseph Hall, Norman Hall, Cody Christie, Evan Hess, Ryan Krebs, Joslyn Wood, Greg Woodburn, Shaheen Lakhani, Gohar Minassian, Jairek Robbins, James Broadhead, Kyle Fittle, Katherine Tse, Kathleen O'Brien, Tammy Lang, Mackenzie Martin, Sarah Choi, Lauren Penticuff, Sarah Wagner, Christine Chady, and Julie Vernon.

Phillip Vernon, Lindsey Wilber, Emily Cortright, Diana Roycroft, James Martin, Ashley Persico, Timothy Medeiros, Michael DiTerlizzi, Philip Doumar, Andrew Gorodetsky, Daniel Harvey, Audrey Hill, Taylor Hilo, Bianca Kahlenberg, Leighton Norvell, Brett Pere, Veronica Richter, Melissa Roos, Bryan Spurgeon, Addison Craig, Angela Boyd, and Gregory Kraus.

Elizabeth Lott, Christopher Puchferran, Jacob Schattie, Shetty Shohan, Stephanie Martinez, Chelsea Jarrell, Katherine McClellan, Breona Jenkins, Bernard Underwood, John Langdon, Amanda McGehee, Anna Sali, Robyn Watson, Maryanne Barrott, Rebecca Goodwin, McKay Nield, Grayson Stone, Mara Truslow, Brittany Ward, Dana Wright, Michael Noh, Andrew Sze, Erin Stein, Carolyn Bartley, and Austin Stuart Hamner, Jr.

Patrick Ketchum, Joseph Bricker, Karen Bricker, Sydney Ayers, Benjamin Thomas Connell, Christopher Connell, Nicholas Adam Connell, Laura Webb, Megan Lecompte, Margaret Downing, Reeve Fidler, Anthony Serrano, Richard Prevatt, Kimberly Shupe, Liam Swords, Jesyka Palmer, Stephanie De Young, Brandon Spratt, Lauren Boldon, Ashlee Kephart, John Rasmussen, Elizabeth Doyle, Grace Minton, Andrew Robinson, and Victoria Willingham.

Scott Florence, Mollie Frazier, Michelle Gourley, Laura Owen, Brittany Simpson, Iver Vandiver, Nolan Webb, Jonathon Whitlock, Brad Young, Lynice Higgins, Thomas Kazery, Tiffany Holder, Amanda Layton, Holly Webb, Kaylee Keith, Michael Atkins, Rachel Goodrich, Jimmy Van Eerden, Charlotte Lindemanis, Bridget Castor, Kimberly Baker, David Michael Bales, Erin Murowany, Bryan Quay, Rebecca Winterburn, and Rosalyn Wodlinger.

Tina Sankhla, Matthew Pierson, Katelyn Benedit, Ronald Dukes, Sydney Keller, Brian Kelly, Brittany O'Hare, Adam Sferlazzo, Lisa Washakowski, Amoha Bajaj, Mark DeGaetano, Margaret DeOliveira, Maria DeOliveira,

Shabnum Gulati, Lydia McGinnis, Brittany Waser, Kevin Williams, Sean Kennedy, Kyle Campanile, Emily Morgan Farber, Alexa Kretsch, Aditya Madhusudhan, Shefali Madhusudhan, Lindsay Steiner, and Stephanie Tietz.

Sheren Tsai, Jill Coulson, Alexei Brandt, Alexander Long, Kevin McAllister, Tristin Turner, Sheel Tyle, Karoline McMullen, Kelly McLaughlin, Minh Lac, Sambath Luong, My Sy, Pisey Hour, Pisith Hour, Xinpei Jiang, Kunvatha Theth, Dieu Truong, Ky Truong, Carol Lin, Miguel Leon, Ben Calhoun, Katelyn Fenerty, Katherine Suyo, Jonathan Webster, and Conor Dolan.

Benjamin Dunphey, Bonnie McDevitt, Jacob Zimmerman, Chao Long, Aydan Ortiz, Jose Romero, Thais Ridgeway, Donald Groves, Jeffrey Yeh, Audra Piotti, Caroline Mailloux, Eric Shim, Lillianne Harris, Rebecca McMenemy, Andrew Fryml, Stefan Zollinger, Jacquelyn Cox, Keome Rowe, Mary Day, Ana Lopez-Cordell, Kiely McGuire, Alexandra Faulk, Rebecca Nock, Evan Purcell, Katharine Folger, and Jamie Drillette.

Vinson Valdez, Paul Zwicker, John Corbett, Jonathon Hillis, Carly Stevens, Drury Evans, Christina Marmol, Evan Levine, Ian Painter, Allante Nelson, Emily Rinker, Olivia Shuck, Alexander Smith, Ian Gibson, Samuel Keltner, Sean Warren, Kathleen Burch, Ashley Tate, Daniel Adams, Michael Heyer, and Bethany Klicka.

Maggie Marshall, Elizabeth Sharkey, Carlynn Stuart, John Caridad, Megan Freeman, Crystal Marshall, Keren Stewart, Daniel Courtemanch, Jory Lehman, Katie Beckmann, Nicholas Porter, Ellis Calvetti, Jenna Farrester, Valerie Watters, and Shana Marie Wolff.

AIR FORCE TANKER DECISION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Air Force's decision to award the tanker contract to EADS/Northrup Grumman (NG) instead of Boeing.

I understand that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is reviewing that award and a decision is expected this week.

I wanted to highlight that the footprint of the EADS tanker is 53 percent larger than the Boeing version, requiring much more military construction money for larger runways, taxiways, and hangars.

Further, Boeing would create 28,707 jobs per year at full production, at least twice as many U.S. jobs as EADS/NG, which would support an estimated 14,353 jobs if it were to win the contract. Boeing's KC-767 would create twice as many U.S. jobs as EADS/Northrup. The EADS award will result in "loss" of new jobs.

At a time when unemployment is skyrocketing in the US, I believe we should be fighting to maintain as many jobs here in the US instead of sending them overseas.

It has come to light that the Air Force did not review the impact of the contract award on US jobs and I believe this is an important component given that should the contract go to EADS/NG, we would be sending billions of American taxpayers' money overseas at a

time when the US economy is faltering. I question whether the EADS tanker provides the best value for our military and the American taxpayer.

I do not support this contract being awarded to EADS because of its adverse affects on American jobs and I question whether it will meet the long term requirements of our military.

SARATOGA COUNTY BLOOD DRIVE

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two organizations from my home district, the State Employees Federal Credit Union (SEFCU) and American Red Cross Adirondack Saratoga Chapter, who are partnering to sponsor a community blood drive to help save lives in my district on Monday, June 23. The blood drive will be held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The theme for the event is "Give Some Red and Help Save Some Green." In keeping with its commitment to the community and the environment, SEFCU will plant a tree for every donor who gives blood on the 23rd. This is one in a series of blood drives within the "Give 'n Take" Campaign, which schedules community-based blood drives throughout the calendar year to highlight the importance of donating blood. I note its significance because:

Only about 5 percent of the population in the United States donates blood, though about 60 percent of the population is eligible.

Just one pint of blood can help save as many as three lives.

Approximately every 2 seconds, someone in America needs blood. Every day, about 34,000 donations are needed to help save the lives of cancer patients, accident victims and children with blood disorders in the United States.

Approximately 1 out of 3 people will need blood in their lifetime.

Type O blood can help anyone in need. All patients can receive Type O during an emergency when there is no time to test a patient's blood type.

Donors can give blood every 56 days.

The American Red Cross Adirondack Saratoga Chapter is dedicated to saving lives and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. It is led by a volunteer board of directors with 250 other volunteers and 10 paid employees. The local Red Cross is supported by community donations and provides services to Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Hamilton and southern Essex counties. Last year the Red Cross ran 650 aquatic courses and 1,048 first aid and CPR courses, collected over 19,000 units of whole blood, helped deliver 230 emergency messages for members of our armed forces, and assisted more than 1,200 neighbors who were affected by local disasters.

I am proud to call on residents in New York's 20th Congressional District to join these two partners to help save lives.