

gap between the retirement of the current space shuttle in 2010 and the launch of the new Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle in 2015. During this time, the U.S. will lose all human spaceflight capability and will be forced to rely on foreign nations to carry our astronauts to the International Space Station. These outsourced space flights are estimated to cost around \$700 million to \$1 billion. The gap is also expected to have adverse effects on our national economy. NASA estimates that as many as 2,300 people could lose their jobs at Johnson Space Center in Houston as the shuttle fleet is retired. The funds that are included in this bill will help to accelerate the development of our next generation human spaceflight systems and minimize the undesirable consequences of this transitional period.

H.R. 6063 also includes funding for a wide range of different NASA initiatives such as space weather research and robotics development. The bill allows NASA to maintain a diverse portfolio of projects in science, aeronautics, and space exploration. By creating more quality jobs in this technical sector, we will be able to encourage future generations of students to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related fields. Creating this skilled workforce is an important step towards protecting our economic strength, our global competitiveness, and our national security.

Since its inception in 1958, NASA has been responsible for countless innovations and scientific breakthroughs. For decades, it has symbolized our Nation's position as the global leader in space exploration and research. I am proud to support H.R. 6063 so that NASA will be able to build upon its own prestigious legacy as we move forward into this new millennium.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a staple in the American household on Sunday mornings, a political commentator, Tim Russert, whose untimely passing on Friday, June 13th in a Washington Bureau of NBC News has been a devastation for Americans everywhere. Tim Russert, 58, was a native of Buffalo, New York and the NBC News' Washington Bureau Chief.

Russert was an advocate of strong family values founded on principles of love and support as displayed in his dedicated marriage with his wife, Maureen Orth, and his continued encouragement of his son, Luke.

A passionate news journalist and attorney, Tim Russert accomplished many accolades throughout his lifetime. As a bestselling author and inspiration to many, Russert also devoted his time to athletics as an elected member of the Baseball Hall of Fame board of directors and as an avid supporter of the Washington Nationals and Washington Wizards.

Tim Russert was a devout Catholic that spent much of his time giving back to the community by offering aid to non-profit organi-

zations and Catholic charities. Russert was concerned with the welfare of children in the community, and specifically those who lost their lives to gun violence.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District in Ohio and the United States Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF HARMON MASSEY FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FLORIDA STATE ATTORNEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Harmon O. Massey, Jr., upon his retirement from the office of the Florida State attorney.

Mr. Massey's commitment to his country and community spans several decades and has taken on many forms. In 1965, Mr. Massey was awarded wings as an Air Force pilot. With over 950 hours spent in combat and 150 missions, Mr. Massey has dutifully devoted his time to assignments across the globe including the ARC Light mission in Southeast Asia. As a reflection of his immense bravery, valor, and dedication, Mr. Massey was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as six Air Medals commending his outstanding service. Despite his resignation in 1973, Mr. Massey continued his military service by enrolling in the Air Force Inactive Reserve and serving as an Air Force Judge Advocate.

In addition to his military service, Mr. Massey vigorously dedicated himself to the civic aspect of his community. From 1999 to June 2008, Mr. Massey served as a misdemeanor and felony prosecutor as well as a supervisor for the office of the Florida State attorney. Mr. Massey participates in a number of community groups including ARC Santa Rosa, in which he was chairman of the board, Kiwanis, in which he was president of the Santa Rosa Chapter, and the Santa Rosa Kids House in which he is currently the chairperson of the board of directors.

The civilian duties Mr. Massey has performed, as well as his outstanding tenure in the Air Force, is a sign of his dedication and valor. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Harmon O. Massey for his enduring allegiance to our great Nation and the State of Florida.

HONORING DR. THEODORE PAUL VOTTELER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the passing of Dr. Theodore Paul Votteler of Dallas, Texas. Named to Best Doctors of America from 1996–2000, Dr. Votteler performed over 25,000 operations before his

retirement in 1993 and was one of the first surgeons in the Nation to successfully separate conjoined twins. Deeply committed to his practice and the pursuit of education, Dr. Votteler's compassion, skill and spirit will be deeply missed in the community.

Born in 1927 in Portland, Oregon to Theodore and Mary Gladys Parry Votteler, the family moved to the Dallas area in 1939. Mr. Votteler graduated from Highland Park High School and was attending the University of Texas at Austin when he enlisted for the Navy in 1945. After serving his country, he went to Tulane University School of Medicine where he graduated in 1951.

In 1960, he was appointed medical director of surgical services and director of general surgery at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Votteler performed one of seven successful separations of conjoined twins in 1978 and became an international authority on conjoined separations and pediatric surgery.

In 2007, Dr. Votteler returned to the University of Texas at Austin to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. During his career, Dr. Votteler received many awards including the Children's Medical Center Distinguished Service Award and the Tulane Medical School Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, the medical field has lost an astounding surgeon; I send my condolences to his wife, Vermelle Votteler, and his sons and daughters-in law, Tad and Sally Anne Votteler and Todd and Sharmon Sullivan Votteler. In addition, he is survived by his grandchildren Alexis Sutton Votteler, Theodore Paul Votteler III, Anna Grace Votteler, Vitoria Frances Votteler, and one granddaughter on the way, Carol Elizabeth Votteler.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT KEMBLE HOME, OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Kemble Home, of Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. On June 22, 2008, the residents and staff at the Mount Kemble Home will be celebrating its 125th anniversary.

The Mount Kemble Home was founded in 1883 by a group of parishioners from the Morristown Presbyterian Church as a refuge for women in need of a home. The Mount Kemble Home has been assisting women in the lower income bracket for over 125 years.

The Mount Kemble Home provides each resident with a quality one-room apartment, complete with cooking facilities. There are two living rooms with comfortable chairs for reading, watching television, or playing the piano. The front and back porches further enhance the Home with wonderful views of the surrounding neighborhood.

The Mount Kemble Home relies on donations from the community and volunteer work to keep the Home open, as the rent charged is only 25 percent of the residents' income.

For 125 years the Mount Kemble Home has been providing women in Morris County the opportunity to afford quality housing in a comfortable and safe environment. Its staff, volunteers, and charitable donors are to be commended for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Kemble Home on the celebration of 125 years of serving Morris County's women, in one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

HONORING MR. SY STERNBERG

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sy Sternberg and to congratulate him on his retirement as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of New York Life Insurance Company, the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States and one of the largest life insurers in the world.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Sternberg earned a bachelor of electrical engineering degree from the City College of New York in 1965 and an M.S.E.E. degree from Northeastern University in 1968.

Before joining New York Life in 1989, Mr. Sternberg spent 13 years at the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, where he was most recently senior executive vice president.

Mr. Sternberg is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Business Roundtable and serves on its Task Forces on International Trade and Investment, Security and Fiscal Policy and the Leadership Committee of the Lincoln Center Consolidated Corporate Fund. Mr. Sternberg is also a Board of Trustees member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Northeastern University and the Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY.

In 1999, Mr. Sternberg was appointed by President Clinton and served through 2002 as one of three United States representatives to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC). In January of this year, Mayor Bloomberg of New York City appointed Mr. Sternberg as co-chair, along with former Mayor Dinkins, of the Mayor's task force on Career and Technical Education Innovation.

Mr. Sternberg is most importantly the proud father of two grown daughters, Jodi and Donna, and resides in Purchase, NY, with his wife, Laurie, and their son, Matthew.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sy Sternberg for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION
LEGISLATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would close a loophole in the Department of Defense's whistleblowers' protection statute (10 U.S.C. Sec. 2409) and expand this safeguard

to include the men and women of the DOD contracting business who report abuses to their superiors.

Under current law, an individual is only protected—and therefore eligible for remedies—if he or she reports workplace security concerns to “a Member of Congress or an authorized official of an agency or the Department of Justice.” While I understand the importance of encouraging individuals to take their concerns to certain authorities, I believe it is imperative that we include in this authority an employee's superiors.

It seems only natural, that once someone recognizes a problem within their work environment, they report it to their superiors. This is part of a normal progression of attempting to resolve issues and challenging tasks on the job. Few people initially contact their Congressman or the Department of Justice when they first observe an irregularity on the job.

It is also important to note that many former military members migrate to the security contracting industry. Many of these men and women have years of previous service to our nation, have grown to respect their chain of command and understand the benefit it can provide in the workplace. When they have come to the conclusion that additional steps must be taken or when they have identified a significant problem in the work environment, these professionals are trained and encouraged to report their concerns to their superiors to enable them to assess the situation and foster a solution.

Similarly, many in the federal security contracting industry come from a law enforcement background with a comparable command structure and respect for their superiors.

The legislation I introduced today will ensure that those who identify problems within firms subcontracted by DOD are still afforded standard whistleblower protections even if they notify their employer about possible violations before they notify an agent of the federal government. The legislation does not require employees to notify their employer first and it does not preclude them from contacting federal officials, it simply protects employees who point out potential violations to their employer, the federal government or both. If an employee is dismissed prior to his/her notifying the government, but after notifying their employer, they will receive the necessary protections as well.

The current loophole was brought to my attention by a New Jersey resident who worked for a private security firm that guards military installations in my district and throughout the country. This individual witnessed and documented a number of events that raised serious concerns regarding the contractor's ability to ensure the safety and security of the base and the surrounding community.

Base security is not an issue to be taken lightly—anywhere and including in my state of New Jersey. As we all recall, in May of last year, the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office arrested five men who were planning to attack another New Jersey installation, Fort Dix. After a thorough and aggressive law enforcement effort to thwart this attempted terror attack, the men accused have been detained and are awaiting trial. Still, the vulnerabilities at our military bases exposed by this incident cannot be minimized or dismissed.

The individual who brought this loophole to my attention reported to his employer what he

believed were unfulfilled contract requirements that resulted in questions regarding the firm's ability to provide adequate security. After his boss dismissed his concerns, he then scheduled a meeting with the base security personnel to discuss the matter. Before this meeting could occur, the individual was fired by the firm and barred from the base. At that time, he brought these concerns to me. However, since the law requires that a potential whistleblower be a current employee at the time he/she discloses pertinent information to a federal official, it was too late for him to be eligible for protections and/or remedies. Specifically, my legislation would expand the universe of those to whom an individual can properly report concerns to include the individual's chain of command, before and after any retribution, so that the individual will be protected and have the right to be reinstated if an investigation shows that the individual was punished for bringing the matter to the attention of proper authorities.

As we are all aware, in recent years the Department of Defense has looked increasingly to private security contractors to guard and police our military installations across the country. The men and women filling these positions deserve to be protected when they report violations and concerns to their superiors and especially if they are subsequently punished in an attempt by their employer to downplay or even cover up a violation. It is imperative that we amend the law to ensure that these employees are eligible for the same remedies as other whistleblowers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RETIREE
HEALTH ACCOUNT ACT OF 2008
(H.R. 6288)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation, the Retiree Health Account Act of 2008 (H.R. 6288), that I introduced yesterday, June 17, 2008. This bill is designed to help Americans prepare for the medical costs they will incur in retirement.

When Americans engage in retirement planning, too often they don't contemplate the medical expenses they will incur. If they do, they often make significant underestimates or mistakenly believe that such expenses will be entirely met through Medicare. Often, they fail to recognize that Medicare coverage contains numerous gaps and that beneficiaries must pay deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. For example, the monthly Medicare Part A premium currently ranges from \$233 to \$423 while Part B and average Part D premiums are \$96.40 and \$27.93, respectively. In addition, under Part B, beneficiaries must pay an annual deductible of \$135 and 20 percent of covered services. At the same time, Part D beneficiaries have a \$275 deductible and then must pay a 25 percent coinsurance levy for drug costs up to \$2,510, the entire amount for purchases between \$2,510 and \$5,726, and approximately 5 percent of all drug costs thereafter.

Current estimates indicate that an average American couple both aged 65 could need as much as \$295,000 to cover premiums for