

States from harm caused by invasive species. The bill, entitled the "Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act," constitutes a proactive approach to combating invasive wildlife species by preventing their entry at the border.

Currently there is no federal law prohibiting the importation of invasive species into the United States. Yet, nonnative plants and animals are known by scientists to have been introduced into ecosystems in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories. Invasive, nonnative species can harm the economy, human health, and the health of other animal species. Such harm ranges, for example, from depreciating farmland property values to the spreading of disease and loss of irrigation water. Additionally, collapse of buildings; competition with native animals; sport, game, and endangered species losses; habitat alteration; and other ecosystem disturbances; have resulted from the introduction of invasive species.

Scientists and economists estimate the cost of damages caused by invasive species in the United States to amount to over \$123 billion annually. The risks associated with the introduction and establishment of invasive species, and the costs of mitigation, will continue to rise concomitantly with the expansion of trade and increased speed and frequency of travel. The sheer volume of cargo shipped and exchanged worldwide continues to increase, and many communities across the United States are experiencing growth in tourism and in their visitor industries. These factors are reason alone to develop protocols and a system for assessing the risk of all nonnative wildlife species that could be imported or introduced into the United States.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is a significant challenge and priority for many communities across the country, including my district, Guam. Invasive species, for example, threaten the biodiversity and the ecology of the Florida Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the Great Lakes, among other national environmental treasures in our country. On Guam, the brown tree snake has caused the extirpation of many native, endemic forest birds and lizards. The coqui tree frog and the coconut rhinoceros beetle are the latest species to have entered Guam. Although the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced through cargo shipments several decades ago, intentional introduction of invasive species today is something that can and should be controlled. The bill introduced today would protect citizens, the economy, and the environment from imported wildlife species that have the known potential to and that would likely harm our interests in the United States.

Absent a comprehensive federal law addressing the importation of nonnative species, the only protection provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. This law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate wildlife species considered "injurious" to humans and prohibit importation of such species into the country. The process, however, to designate a species as injurious can take four years on average, at which point in most cases harm has already been caused and realized.

The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act authorizes the establishment by regulation of a risk assessment process to control the importation of wildlife species. The bill adopts

a preventative approach by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop with public notice and public input a "green list" of species allowed to be imported and a "black list" preventing invasive species from entering the country. Prior to approving a species to be imported, the Secretary must evaluate its potential risk to humans, other animal species, and environmental health. Any imports of "black list" species will be subject to penalties under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. The Secretary, however, may permit importation of an animal of such other prohibited species for educational, scientific research, or accredited zoological or aquarium display purposes. Finally, import fees will be collected to cover the costs of the risk assessment process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the federal government to more effectively manage and prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species.

HONORING CAROL ROEVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carol Roever of St. Joseph, Missouri. Carol is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Woman of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

As an Associate Professor at MWSU, Carol Roever sets high expectations for her students and supports them to achieve these goals. Her students have won awards in national contests and have been selected to present their research at international conferences in the U.S., Finland, Denmark, Germany and Italy. Developing a course to introduce students to international business, Carol has taken more than 135 students to seven countries to participate in business seminars, learn from corporate leaders, and experience cultural differences.

Beyond the classroom, Carol has directed the Department of Business internship program for a number of years, placing over 500 students in internships across the U.S. In addition, over the last seven years, Carol has presented 13 papers at regional, national and international conferences. She recently spent a semester as a visiting professor at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2006, she was selected as Chairperson for the Department of Business at MWSU. Her dedication to her students and her outstanding teaching have earned her national recognition from professional organizations. She has also received awards from MWSU that acknowledge the quality and significance of her work. Carol is an active volunteer in St. Joseph, having served on Heartland Health boards for more than 12 years, with two years as Medical Center Board President. This year she presented three communication workshops for women in the YWCA shelter.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Carol Roever. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IRAN AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it's clear that those leading the government of Iran are not friends of the United States or of our friends, including Israel. It would be folly to think otherwise.

So, we are right to be concerned about the possibility that Iran could obtain nuclear weapons, and we should take seriously the report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the possibility of their developing them is "a matter of serious concern."

But I think a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette was right to remind us that while Iran's actions "cannot help but arouse suspicion . . . This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire" and that in fact "it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime."

Because I think its points deserve consideration, I am attaching the complete editorial for the information of our colleagues:

[From the Gazette, Colorado Springs, June 5, 2008]

AN OPENING FOR IRAN TALKS?

The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency indicates that while there is still no solid evidence that Iran is actively developing nuclear weapons, the possibility is still "a matter of serious concern." Iran is still playing cat-and-mouse with the IAEA in ways that cannot help but arouse suspicion.

This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire. Indeed, it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime.

The fact that a rival to loose-lipped Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was overwhelmingly elected as speaker of the Iranian parliament suggests that it might be a good time to take preliminary steps toward resuming the official contact between Iran and the United States. Ali Larijani, who has been critical of Ahmadinejad because of persistent inflation and other economic problems, won by a vote of 323-31.

It is unthinkable that Larijani rolled up this majority without backing from Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the mullahs who really run the country. Most analysts interpret his victory as a signal that the mullahs are rethinking their support of Ahmadinejad.

If the United States is to remain involved in the region, it is wise to recognize that while Iran poses no direct threat to the United States, it is an important regional power. In such situations, as the Godfather understood, it is important to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM EVANS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian and a great American, the late Sam Evans.

He had firsthand experience as a victim of oppression. His mother was born before abolition, and he witnessed five lynchings before

he turned 9 years old. But, he refused to live his life as a victim. His childhood under Jim Crow spurred an adulthood spent as a champion of justice. He led protests against American Nazism and discrimination of all kinds. He was jailed for his activities, but he never stopped standing up for his beliefs. He went on to organize and lead the 43,000 Philadelphians who joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Mr. Evans founded and led the American Foundation for Negro Affairs and the multi-ethnic Family of Leaders. He was a visionary and champion of the right to a decent education, decent housing and justice for all.

But, more than anything, Sam Evans was a friend and a mentor to anyone who walked through his door. He never refused anyone who sought the benefit of his wisdom and experience. I spent many hours learning from him myself. I am proud to call myself a follower of Sam Evans.

Sam is resting now. I know that he and his beloved Edna are swapping stories about Retha and the grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great-grandkids. We will miss you, Sam. But, after 105 years of hard work on this Earth, we will never feel that you are gone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, June 18th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 419, 420, 421, and 422.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS FROM MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal from the state of Mississippi. I had the honor of meeting them at this morning's ceremony and it is with tremendous pride that I announce that so many young Americans from the great state of Mississippi have achieved such a distinction. Countless hours of community service by these dedicated young adults has left a tremendous impact on local communities across the state.

It is my pleasure to recognize Michelle Jade Gourley of Mathiston, Mississippi, Laura Kay Owen of Slatton, Mississippi, Brittany Simpson of New Albany, Mississippi, Iver O'Neal Vandiver II of Corinth, Mississippi, Nolan Webb of Water Valley, Mississippi, Jonathan Paul Whitlock of Iuka, Mississippi, Bradley Ragan Young of Corinth, Mississippi, Lynice Michelle Higgins of Hazlehurst, Mississippi,

Thomas Chadwick Kazery of Jackson, Mississippi, Tiffany Holder of Starkville, Mississippi, Amanda Layton of Magee, Mississippi, Holly Webb of Forrest, Mississippi, and Kaylee Keith of Laurel, Mississippi as recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal.

On behalf of the state of Mississippi, I am honored to offer our deepest appreciation to these young men and women for their selfless acts of service and self-discipline.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES CHILDS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend James Childs for a distinguished career in the ministry that has spanned 50 years. As Reverend Childs transitions from head pastor to his role as Senior Pastor of Pointe of Praise Family Life Center in Kingston New York, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership as one of our region's most respected and passionate men of faith. I also wish to congratulate him on the occasion of his 70th birthday, another significant milestone.

Raised by his grandparents, Jim graduated from Kingston High School and began his professional career with IBM. His drive, determination and unwavering faith helped him to advance from mail clerk to department manager. During the ensuing years, Jim served his country, married his lovely wife Dorothy, became a father, deepened his spirituality and found the strength to enroll in the Nyack Missionary College to pursue his devotion to God.

I have even had the distinct pleasure of watching as Reverend Childs has grown even beyond his eloquent sermons and commitment to ideals to become a man of action. His involvement in our community is extensive. He has worked tirelessly to address disparity in many segments of our society including housing, education, and healthcare. He has served on numerous boards and his ministries have assisted migrant workers, food pantries and the youth of our towns and neighborhoods. Reverend Childs has been a tremendous force, powered by his sense of deep commitment to being a living example of what he preaches.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Reverend Childs and his family on his 50 years in the ministry. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dorothy as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his inspiration, dedication and hard work for the past 50 years. As the new Senior Pastor of Pointe of Praise Family Life Center, I am confident Reverend Childs will continue to contribute in many ways to the church and community as a whole.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL LAYTON BRADLY CRASS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a brave young Hoosier who served his country honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Lance Corporal Layton Bradley Crass of Richmond, Indiana, one of four Marines who perished in the wake of a roadside bombing in southwestern Afghanistan's Farah Province on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Lance Cpl. Crass served in G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twentynine Palms, California. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where his unit was helping to train and mentor the Afghan national police.

The three Marine Corps values are honor, courage and commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. These values, handed down from generation to generation, have made the U.S. Marine Corps the most respected and revered fighting force on Earth. Lance Cpl. Crass personified these values and continued that proud tradition as a Rifleman who served his country bravely in combat.

In addition to the posthumous awards that he will receive because he died in the line of duty, Lance Cpl. Crass was the recipient of seven awards since he enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 2005. He earned ribbons for combat action and two sea service deployments, as well as campaign medals for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Crass, and I wish to express my profound sadness to the community of Richmond, which is struggling to cope with the loss of a second young man in only a few short months. Just as Lance Cpl. Crass embodied the Marine motto—Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful"—let us also be faithful to extend a helping hand to his family, friends and community, and remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING BECKY SNETHEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Becky Snethen of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Becky is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Support Services.

Becky Snethen may have started out as a part-time scorekeeper for a basketball league at InterServ, but 25 years later she is the Agency Administrative Assistant, in charge of Human Resources, and helps manage the youth programs while the director is on leave. She keeps the Executive Director and Youth Director organized and informed, and organizes trips for youth groups to travel all over