

Battalion he deployed with the battalion to Saudi Arabia and was instrumental in preparing base camps necessary to support the heavy inflow of soldiers and equipment into the region prior to the commencement of Desert Storm. He was a project officer and the deputy commander for the Ft. Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was the engineer group logistics officer, 1st Engineer Battalion operations officer, and executive officer. He also served as secretary to the general staff for the 1st Infantry Division commander as well as the installation's director of public works. Colonel Midkiff commanded the Albuquerque District, where he was instrumental in working with State and local sponsors in the management of critical water resources and endangered habitat along the Rio Grande River from Colorado through New Mexico and into Texas. He also provided outstanding support to our Air Force customers with design and construction services at the three Air Force bases located in New Mexico. He again served our Nation overseas as the chief of plans and operations for engineer activities in support of 8th Army in Korea.

His leadership has truly been visionary. His accomplishments will have lasting impacts on our Nation's water resources and construction support for military customers for years to come.

A good neighbor and valued steward of our defense assets and natural resources, I am proud to honor Colonel Midkiff for his spirit of service, patriotism, and dedication to our Nation. On the occasion of his retirement, I know my colleagues will want to join me in extending wishes of continued success and happiness to Colonel Midkiff, his wife Tammy, and their daughter Rae.

THE ENERGY MARKETS ANTI-MANIPULATION AND INTEGRITY RESTORATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of urgency and purpose that I am introducing the Energy Markets Anti-Manipulation and Integrity Restoration Act today.

With high fuel prices squeezing our constituents and burdening our economy, we in Congress have a responsibility to act. While individual Members of Congress clearly disagree over whether we will ever really be able to drill our way out of this challenge—or whether next generation alternatives and improved energy efficiency offer the most promising way forward, there is one principle on which we should all agree: Our energy markets should serve the legitimate needs of energy consumers and producers—not enrich a narrow group of “hot money” speculators at the public's expense. With hedge fund and institutional interest in commodities exploding nearly twenty-fold over the past 5 years, and the price of oil recently spiking over \$11 in a single day, it is clear that today's energy prices reflect something more than the fundamental laws of supply and demand.

The Energy Markets Anti-Manipulation and Integrity Restoration Act would once and for

all close the so-called Enron loophole by adding energy to the list of commodities that cannot be traded on deregulated, exempt commercial markets. Additionally, this focused legislation would close the Foreign Board of Trade (FBOT) loophole currently enabling unregulated energy futures trading on American soil by forbidding an exchange from being deemed an unregulated foreign entity if its trading affiliate or trading infrastructure is in the U.S., and it trades a U.S.-delivered energy contract that significantly affects price discovery in the markets. If enacted into law, these two common-sense steps would go a long way towards eliminating market manipulation and excessive speculation currently distorting today's energy marketplace.

I am especially pleased to be offering this timely legislation today with my colleagues Representatives ROSA DELAURO, BETTY SUTTON, ROBERT WEXLER, ADAM SCHIFF, XAVIER BECERRA, PETER WELCH, BRIAN HIGGINS, BILL DELAHUNT and RAUL GRIJALVA—and I look forward to working with them and the rest of the House to address this important issue on behalf of our constituents in very short order.

TRIBUTE TO REGINA CORRELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to inform the House of the passing of Regina Correll, a truly great lady, in my hometown of Somerset.

Regina and her husband of 56 years, Ward Correll, started their marriage with meager belongings, but through hard work during their life together, were able to become the largest philanthropic givers to the good and the needy in their home county's history.

Caring for others has been the hallmark of the Corrells. Regina's greatest love though, was for her seven children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and she saw them continue the culture of helping others.

Her and Ward's other great love was for their church, the First Baptist Church of Somerset. They rarely missed attending Sunday services in their 50-plus years of membership. It is astonishing to note that during the last year of her life, in spite of a seriously disabling illness, she missed only two Sunday school classes of the group she taught. The church has been a major receiver of their sacrifice. The Corrells subscribe to what Mark Twain once wrote: “To get the full value of joy, you must have people to divide it with.”

No one will ever know just how many underprivileged people, young and old, have seen that joy with the Corrells and been helped over a rough patch, and mostly without publicity. And in addition to their church, there are the good institutions that promote hard work and caring for others they have helped in major ways—such as the Somerset Christian School and Victory Christian School, to which they gave millions of dollars. The Clear Creek Baptist Institute, a ministers school, the University of the Cumberlands, Somerset Community College, Bluegrass Council of Boy Scouts, Little League Baseball, and others too numerous to mention. They agreed with actor Leonard Nimoy who said: “the miracle is this—the more we share, the more we have.”

Regina's loving and devoted husband, Ward, continues the extremely successful business empire they built together. His heart is heavy with her loss but his spirit remains light and optimistic. His work is not over.

Madam Speaker, I have known the Corrells for all my adult life. I have witnessed innumerable acts of kindness and generosity by these humble, caring and loving people. Never, though, have I heard them complain about their difficult course, the hard work, the huge risks taken or their deep personal, family losses. Always forward looking, always faithful, always cheerful.

Regina Correll was a graceful, quiet, deeply faithful woman. She was a devoted wife, and mother; a God-fearing, God-loving Christian, who, no doubt, now basks in the glory of her Savior.

If ever anyone could be compared to the Bible's Timothy as he described his life at its conclusion, it is Regina Correll. He said: “I have fought the good fight. I have completed the race. I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

And Regina Correll did.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today we are voting yet again on legislation that will provide approximately \$165 billion in funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the bill does not include the necessary language that I and many of my colleagues support to ensure that this war funding is not simply a blank check. I cannot vote for legislation to fund the administration's wrongheaded policies in Iraq without provisions that ensure that American troops will be coming home by a date certain.

However, I will support the amendment that will provide critical funding for domestic priorities. This amendment will expand veterans' education benefits and extend unemployment insurance by 13 weeks for all States. Additionally, this amendment will direct nearly \$3 billion to efforts to aid those who have been affected by the devastating floods in the Midwest.

It is time for the President to listen to the American people who want the war in Iraq to end.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5781, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

People should not be punished for taking the time to care for new additions to their families. You must take time to take care of your child, your family, and yourself. It makes you a better person, a better parent, and in the long-term—a better employee. Pressure to jump back into work does nothing to ease mind, body, spirit, or financial pressures.

Simply said, the current policy is detrimental to many, many American families. The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act shows that the federal government actually cares about American families.

Women who require leave to care for a new child, new employees who have do not have saved days, and those who have used all their leave suffer under the existing policy. These hard-working Americans are forced to choose between spending more time with their children and maintaining an income to support their family. Providing four weeks for paid parental leave and allowing existing leave to be used to care for new babies eases the pressures on federal employees and their families.

H.R. 5781 is just good, common sense policy, and, Mr. Speaker, we must act now. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5781.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, introduced by Congresswoman CAROLYN B. MALONEY.

The bill H.R. 5781 provides Federal employees with 4 weeks of paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child. The introduction of this important bill is crucial to Federal workforce and American families. Paid parental leave will create the opportunity for many employees to become new parents while keeping the balance between work and families. Many of those who oppose this critical bill deny not only the chance for happy family living, but also productivity and effectiveness of the Federal workforce system. Paid Parental Leave Act does not increase the deficit of the budget; it will be paid for through discretionary spending, without hurting the economy or taxpayers.

In many countries all over the world, the paid parental Leave is introduced and supported by the government. The U.S. Federal Government should be an example of the family-friendly workplace policies. Members of Congress must understand how crucial the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act is and must strongly support its enactment.

EMERGENCY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008. Mr. Speaker as you know this bill provides up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to those individuals and families struggling to find work.

The relief this measure brings to the 3.9 million Americans and the 221,000 residents of my State of Illinois is monumental and much needed. When I look at my own congressional district, I am saddened. I am saddened that the plight of this economy is taking such a toll on those who are out of work or just plain down on their luck.

The statistics are staggering and upsetting. While the national unemployment rate stands at 5.1 percent, the State of Illinois is suffering a 6.1 percent unemployment rate, and the Chicagoland area is suffering a 5.8 percent rate of unemployment. Moreover, minorities are disproportionately suffering in this time of rising job loss. Nationally, African Americans account for 8.8 percent of the unemployed; while the rate in the State of Illinois is 10.3 percent, and specifically in Chicago a rate of 10.6 percent.

Hard working families and people struggling to make ends meet are calling on us to make them the priority. With the price of gas and food climbing exponentially, rising home foreclosures, and businesses reducing their employment rolls—we in Congress have a responsibility to ensure the well being of our citizens.

The families of the First Congressional District, the State of Illinois and indeed the Nation, cannot wait on the Bush administration for help any longer. Chicago is suffering, Mr. Speaker, Illinois is hurting, America is in need of drastic relief of the Bush economic policies and we cannot afford to let these continue on our watch.

We Democrats have worked tirelessly this Congress to push issues and effect positive change in the economic lives of not only my constituents but the entire country. We have continually been met with resistance by our friends from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I support the immediate extension of unemployment benefits and strongly urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 5749.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5781, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

The legislation gives Federal employees 4 weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption

of a child. Strong parental involvement plays an important role in raising a happy, healthy, and successful child.

As the country's largest employer with over 1.8 million employees, the Federal Government should set the standard for family friendly workplace policies.

I am proud to support this common-sense legislation, which promotes the family values that are at the core of our society while also setting an example for all employers across America to follow. Studies consistently show that paid parental leave is a smart business practice. Not only does paid leave help to reduce turnover, but it can also lead to increased productivity and better morale.

Simply put, offering 4 weeks of paid parental leave is the right thing to do—especially now, when the Federal Government is struggling to recruit and retain qualified, young individuals. As the economic and industrial leaders of the world, the U.S. Government should be the standard bearer on issues relating to fairness and family.

I urge the President to reconsider his misguided veto threat, and work with Congress to give more American parents the tools they need to build healthier and stronger families.

Please vote in support of H.R. 5781.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES BARRETT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE MICHIGAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of James Barrett, who is retiring after more than thirty years of service as the President and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, an organization which has had an influential role in many important social, economic and political issues in the state of Michigan.

Jim Barrett is well known and highly regarded in Michigan where he has been a leader in advancing Michigan business in a distinguished career that spanned four decades.

In addition to his work with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Jim is also the President of Michigan Chamber Services, Inc. During his time there, Jim has worked diligently for the benefit of the Michigan business community by providing educational seminars, publications and many other services to help businesses grow and thrive.

Jim also has done extensive work for Michigan's youth as President of the Michigan Chamber Foundation, which is involved in improving the level of education our children receive as well as the leadership training so important to their future.

Jim's hard work and dedication was recognized many times over by his colleagues. Most notably in, 2002 he became an initial inductee into the Michigan Society of Association Executives Hall of Fame. Additionally, in 2003 the Michigan Political History Society selected Jim as the top Association Leader in Michigan over the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James Barrett for being a model for all citizens, and for his dedication