

those who seek the benefit of her many years of experience. During her tenure at the Federal Maritime Commission, one of her administrative accomplishments was preparing a whole generation of Senior Executive Service employees, many of whom continue to serve at that agency today.

Madam Speaker, throughout her career, Ming Hsu has been a pioneer, someone unafraid of a challenge and an individual who has repeatedly distinguished herself, yet doing so with graciousness and good will. She is an impressive and amazing woman who we thank for her selfless service in so many capacities and who we wish good health and good fortune in the years to come.

FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-125)

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the override of the President veto. As a conferee on the farm bill I worked hard to ensure that this bill includes significant improvements to the food assistance program via the nutrition title. A nation with the agricultural abundance we enjoy should not tolerate hunger among its people. This legislation makes important progress in that regard.

Many of its nutrition provisions are important and deserve mention. In the interests of time, however, I will not go into them all. One of the positive aspects of the protracted process of passing the bill is that all Members have had ample opportunity to review the conference report and floor statements surrounding its passage. This is large and complex legislation, and the legislative history accumulated on its first passage and first override is an invaluable guide to Members.

I found particularly helpful the statements of the distinguished chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, Mr. BACA, and his distinguished fellow conferee from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. BERMAN. Among other things, they pointed out that this legislation takes decisive steps to preserve the longstanding ability of households on the food stamp program to seek help through the judicial system when Federal rules on how the program is to be administered are not being met. Specifically, the bill provides explicit recognition of applicants' and recipients' suits to enforce the Food Stamp Act, now the Food and Nutrition Act, food stamp regulations, and civil rights regulations.

This is the right thing to do and it is important. In light of the Gonzaga and Sandoval cases, some have argued that Congress did not provide this right to injured households and that instead only USDA can require States to change practices that do not comply with the Act or regulations. Those cases were about different statutes and different programs. Nonetheless, recent decisions out of Ohio and New York either questioned the enforceability of Federal regulations or imposed special hurdles plaintiffs must surmount, such

as showing a particular degree of egregiousness on the part of defendants. These cases are radical departures from the history of this program and Congress's oft-demonstrated intent.

I agree with Representatives BACA and BERMAN that the Food Stamp Program's needs are different from those in which private rights of action are narrowly construed. And, over the years Congress has recognized that. Individuals that received, or wished to receive, food assistance brought numerous cases against State and local authorities in the 1970s to enforce provisions of the Food Stamp Act, its implementing regulations, and even USDA's certification manual. They did this because USDA lacked the resources to force States to comply with its guidance and directives, including basic services standards such as emergency food stamps for the neediest. When Congress wrote the Food Stamp Act of 1977, it analyzed the results of that litigation in detail, approving some results and writing the statute to reach a different result from others. A similar pattern has continued to this day.

We set high standards for the States, counties and localities that run these programs. We do that because they are serving our most vulnerable citizens with tens of billions of Federal dollars. The high standards of compliance that we apply to State and local administration of the program can be seen in our payment accuracy and quality control measurement system, one of the most extensive in the Federal Government. This system, however, does not give equal or adequate weight to improper denials of benefits as it does to payment errors to eligible households. And it does not at all address violations of the procedures set out in the statute and regulations. For example, quality control does not deal with a State's failure to operate a proper fair hearing system, with its improper disclosure of households' confidential information, or with its delay in processing applications beyond statutory and regulatory deadlines.

Claimants' litigation has proven the ideal complement to the quality control system. Where a program is being run badly in a locality, or statewide, a court can issue a corrective injunction to require the State to come into compliance with Federal regulations. This is particularly important in cases where the violation may not have resulted in a denial of benefits, such as violations of privacy protections or of the requirement that only State merit systems workers make decisions about households' ability to receive benefits.

Our goal has never been to punish States and so we do not concern ourselves with why the program is out of compliance. We merely seek to ensure that States comply with Federal rules when administering this program. Litigation has proven time and again that it is the ideal vehicle for that. Past Federal appellate decisions from places such as Virginia and Oregon have it exactly right: State and local administrators need to comply fully in every case.

There is no half-way or partial compliance with the programs' rules. We agree with past federal appellate decisions from places such as Virginia and Oregon that state and local administrators must comply with the rules in each and every case. States must deliver benefits consistent with the program's regulations and law to ensure that the most vulnerable

and needy are protected and supported as they seek to participate in the program. Litigation has proven time and again that it is the ideal vehicle to enforce compliance where States are only partially meeting program standards.

In other programs, the solution to non-compliance may be reducing or terminating federal funds. That is still possible in these programs, but it cannot be a mainstay of enforcement activities. We learned that withdrawing Federal funding led to worse, not better, program administration, depriving States of the resources they needed to correct their problems at the worst possible time. Accordingly, in the last farm bill we modified quality control to place much less emphasis on reducing funding to states. USDA over the years has similarly felt that withholding funding even for serious violations is often counterproductive.

It should be clear that the long history of congressional approval of litigation by needy individuals supports the continuation of that regulation. The statute's entitlement is closely linked with States' obligation to comply with Federal regulations. Particularly with some States embarking on radical changes in their administration of the program, closing offices and turning key functions over to private contractors, it is crucial that the program's intended low-income beneficiaries have access to courts to test the legality of those changes. Although I would have preferred to have expanded the protections on public administration of the program, as the House bill would have done, our acceptance of the Senate package was a compromise that ensures households' access to the courts to test these States' practices under the current restrictions.

SLOAN MUSEUM AND LONGWAY PLANETARIUM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium for receiving accreditation from the American Association of Museums. Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium join an elite group of 775 accredited institutions out of 17,500 museums in the United States.

Located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium are icons of the Flint Cultural Center. The greater Flint community began planning the Flint College and Cultural Center in 1952. The Sloan Museum, named after Alfred P. Sloan, was designated as the transportation and local history museum and now includes the Buick Gallery and Research Center opened in 1999. The Robert T. Longway Planetarium was conceived as a place to teach students and the greater public about the universe and general science. The two institutions merged in 2004.

Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is the culmination of a 2-year-long application process. To receive accreditation a museum has to demonstrate a commitment to outstanding programming for the public and at the same time meet high standards for the care of the scientific and cultural artifacts in its custody. The Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium meet the exacting

standards of each criterion. Currently the Sloan Museum Annual Auto Fair will take place this coming weekend and on display is the Nicola Bulgari collection of vintage General Motors automobiles. The Longway Planetarium is currently displaying a moon rock, on loan from NASA, which was brought back to Earth by *Apollo 16*.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium for receiving this prestigious accreditation. For over 50 years the staff, volunteers and community have worked diligently to maintain these jewels of the Flint area and this is a well-deserved honor for both Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium.

A POEM IN HONOR OF KING
GEORGE PITTMAN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute of my beloved uncle, King George Pittman. He was an American patriot and hero who bravely fought during World War Two and the Korean War in defense of our nation. It is my privilege to submit this poem written by Albert Caswell of the Capitol Guide Service who has honored my uncle with these words.

SOMEONE, TO LOOK UP TO

There are people in our world . . .
All in how they've lived their lives, that all
our little boys and girls . . . should
look up to!

Who, are but The Greatest Examples of Shining
Faith . . . who are but Our Very
Best, all in so many ways . . .

Who stand tall and proud . . .

Who no matter what the cost, the price . . .
their fine hearts were heard beating
loud!

Who in their moments upon this earth, have
so shown but their fine true worth . . .
all in our lives endowed!

As Someone To Look Up To . . .

As Sarge, as he was called . . . unto this our
world, such a great life so brought into
view . . .

As a Proud American, who once so dared . . .
a real and fine American who so cared,
all in what he would do!

As when a world stood at its edge . . .

As all around him so, such an evil darkness
bled . . . when a young hero, his life so
pledged!

Coming Home, after helping To Save The
World . . . as into a new war, his heroic
life was again so led!

Sarge! A Good Life! An Officer and A Gentleman
first . . .

Even though he had but so lived through but
the very . . . very worst . . .

As still, another great war had lie ahead . . .
as he had come home to discrimination's
curse!

But, he never gave up or in . . .

Because, in his Country Tis A Thee . . . as he
so believed in, to be counted on this
man . . .

All in his life conceived, all in the way his
family had brought him up so indeed
. . . as he stood tall time and again!

Showing his Nation, as in his life so lies The
Truth . . .

That Black Is Beautiful, and all in his courage
and character so dutiful . . . as lies
the proof

A shining example of faith and how, showing
us all the way so now . . . as King
George's life, makes hearts race . . .
it's a beaut!

For In Our Darkest Hours!

Only with Our Faith . . . Courage . . . Kindness . . .
and Our Character . . . can
we so overpower, the darkness which
around us towers!

And To Rise Above, All In Our Courage and
in Our Love . . . We Will All Reach Our
Finest Hour!

But, our moments herein time . . . are but
the shortest of all to find . . .

For when it's all said and done, will we be
the ones . . . as Sarge, who now up in
Heaven have Someone To Look Up To?

So mount up now . . . For you King George,
are but an Angel In The Army of Our
Lord so fine!

As Someone Above To Watch Over Us, And
To Look Up To in our lives!

TRIBUTE TO ALLAN S. COHEN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Allan S. Cohen on his thirty-seven years of outstanding service to our nation.

Mr. Cohen, who is retiring on June 30, 2008, has served as a senior Human Resources Specialist with the Department of Defense. His dedication and contributions have left a legacy for all federal civil servants.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Cohen and to extend our country's gratitude to him for his honorable and productive service.

150 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL
LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of an extraordinarily important religious congregation in the City of Newton, which I am proud to represent in this body, and where I have lived for 28 years. Congregation Mishkan Tefila has been an important part of the City of Newton since 1957. Temple Mishkan Tefila has of course been primarily a place of worship for large numbers of Jewish men, women and young people, and through a series of outstanding rabbis and other leaders, it has performed that essential function superbly. It has also been a forum for community leadership in a number of other ways. Its doors have always been open to the community, both its own members and the community at large, and I have personally benefited from that openness on a number of occasions by being able to participate in forums that the temple has run, which have helped me and others fulfill our duties to relate to our constituents.

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to salute the members of the Mishkan Tefila Congregation on this 150th Anniversary,

and congratulate them on their opportunity both to look back on a very proud history, and to look forward to the promise of continued great service in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE 63RD AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NA-
TIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Chairman DELAHUNT of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, I am introducing legislation to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Since its founding, the United Nations has made many contributions to the global community in the fields of health, education, peace-keeping and humanitarian aid.

For 63 years the United Nations has provided a forum for the achievement of international cooperation in solving the world's most pressing economic, social and humanitarian problems including climate change, trafficking in humans, combating global terrorism, and responding quickly to disasters such as the tsunami in South East Asia in 2004.

The United Nations has visionary new leadership that should also be commended. Under Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations launched a multi-year campaign to improve awareness amongst global policy-makers at the highest levels regarding issues relating to violence against women.

Joining us are Representatives JIM McDERMOTT, MAURICE HINCHEY, SAM FARR, MADELEINE BORDALLO, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, JOSÉ SERRANO, JIM MCGOVERN, DENNIS KUCINICH, CHAKA FATTAH, ROBERT BRADY, BETTY MCCOLLUM, JAMES P. MORAN, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, RAÚL GRIJALVA, and BARBARA LEE.

I look forward to working with Chairman DELAHUNT and my other colleagues to pledge the support of Congress to the United Nations as the organization moves forward and to commend the United Nations for sixty-three years of good work.

HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF
JEANETTE IRENE HUTCHISON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanette Irene Lalime-Sellner-Hutchison, who is celebrating her 80th birthday today. As an indispensable member of my staff, Jeanette has served as my Constituent Service Director for almost six years, assisting 11th District residents with problems ranging from Social Security and veterans' benefits to passports and immigration issues.

But Madam Speaker, Jeanette has always had a passion for helping others. Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, Jeanette moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota as a young girl, where