

space is often at the forefront of security or innovation, the work that the foundation does in promoting space education programs in all 50 States is critical. Furthermore, the Space Foundation's advocacy of peaceful and positive uses of outer space is crucial. Indeed, as John F. Kennedy, speaking in Houston, noted, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

Houston has long been at the center of the American exploration of space. The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston has been NASA's center for human spaceflight activities. Houston has served as the Mission Control Center for every space mission since *Gemini IV* and directs all space shuttle and International Space Station Missions. The Johnson Center is also home to astronaut training, and Houston is a hub of scientific and space-related research. Houston's connection to space exploration has made evident to me the potential for growth and discovery that space holds. This connection has also inspired in me a great amount of respect and support for those organizations and individuals who pursue an awareness of space for the fostering of a peaceful and prosperous world.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with me. I believe that what the Space Foundation has accomplished through more than 25 years of diligent service is more than deserving of such a commemoration. Through their efforts in improving our commercial, national, and theoretical uses and understanding of space they have undoubtedly helped better our Nation.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Homes for Heroes Act, H.R. 3329.

The Homes for Heroes Act establishes a \$200 million a year assistance program for supportive housing and services for low income homeless veterans and their families at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and requires at least 20,000 rental housing vouchers a year be made available to homeless veterans and their families. This important bill also creates a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within HUD and requires HUD to submit an annual report to Congress on housing needs for veterans.

Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population and the VA is the largest single provider of direct services to homeless veterans. According to the VA, the number of homeless veterans has declined 21 percent in the past year, however there are still 154,000 homeless veterans including 1,500 from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor deserve the support and resources they need to overcome mental, physical, and emotional wounds caused by war. Congress must continue fighting to ensure they receive the high-

est level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE DAILY 45: ROBERT WASHINGTON AND TWO OTHER VICTIMS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Early this morning, Robert Washington of Chicago was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound to the neck.

In Wisconsin, Travis Mills was shot last Saturday morning with a small-caliber handgun and in Rockaway, Queens, a young man was fatally shot. The 18-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three more lives lost. We must become our brother's keeper. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEST CREEK CONFLUENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a "Concrete Breaking" celebration at the confluence of West Creek and the Cuyahoga River in the city of Independence in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

The West Creek—Cuyahoga River Confluence Restoration Project implements the vision expressed in both the city of Independence Master Plan and West Creek Watershed Plan by restoring a 10-acre vacant industrial site where West Creek meets the Cuyahoga River in Independence, Ohio. The property currently contains approximately 85% impervious surface, contributing significant non-point source pollution which flows directly into West Creek and the Cuyahoga. The property and this entire area have flooded repeatedly during recent storm events and is at the center of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 205 study to find the best way to mitigate flood damage. The restoration includes plans for its future use as a public riverfront park with the added benefits of ecological habitat restoration and storm water management best practices.

On Friday July 11, 2008, Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz, in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Trust for Public Land, the George Gund Foundation, the Natural Resources Assistance Council of Cuyahoga County, the Clean Ohio Fund, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Transportation and other partners, will begin the demolition of the industrial buildings to begin the restoration.

When completed, West Creek will return to its original meandering flow into the Cuyahoga

River with natural wetlands to reduce upstream flooding, clean local drinking water, and restored wildlife habitats. The new park will connect the West Creek Greenway to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, provide new access to the creek and river for all, and lead to economic revitalization of this part of the city of Independence. This project will contribute greatly to the continuing restoration of the Cuyahoga River, one of the 14 federally designated American Heritage Rivers.

The benefits of the West Creek Confluence Project are numerous. Locally, it will reclaim underutilized industrial property, create a new and dynamic recreation area along the National Scenic Byway, restore a more natural hydrology to Lower West Creek, create an area for urban ecology to flourish, retain and filter storm water which will mitigate the effects of flooding, and reduce non-point source pollution entering into West Creek and the Cuyahoga River. From a regional perspective, the West Creek Confluence Project will work to herald in a new era of sustainable redevelopment within the Lower Cuyahoga River Valley, capitalizing on recreational and commercial uses that still allow for a functioning floodplain with a high degree of ecological diversity, flood storage and habitat connectivity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the beauty and regional ecologic importance of the West Creek Confluence and the pivotal project now underway to ensure it returns to its former natural prominence.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6304

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my support of H.R. 6304—The FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

From the Revolutionary War to the tragedy of 9/11, America's quest for freedom is what defines us. It is imperative that we never forget those who died for our liberty, nor can we ignore the failures of our own intelligence leading up to that day in September 7 years ago. Balancing civil liberties and protecting our national security has been a 232 year struggle that represents the core of this great Nation.

As such, the year-long debate this body engaged in updating FISA has hinged on a question that rests at the heart of American democracy since its founding: how do we keep our Nation safe, while at the same time ensuring the preservation of those Constitutional freedoms that we hold dear? It was Benjamin Franklin who warned that those who sacrifice liberty for a little security deserve neither.

When the first effort to amend FISA—The Protect America Act—came before this House in August of 2007, I voted against that deeply flawed bill because it did not ensure proper protection of our civil liberties, nor did it provide the appropriate check over the executive branch. In fact, neither the Protect America Act, nor the subsequent "Senate compromise," included essential oversight provisions. Those bills, rather, sought to minimize the role of the FISA court, removing any form

of meaningful judicial oversight over the President and the executive branch.

My sense of justice as a former prosecutor and my experience as a constitutional law professor at West Point led me to the inescapable conclusion that our initial attempts to craft the appropriate balance failed.

Madam Speaker, the issue of foreign surveillance predates the founding of our very republic—traceable to George Washington, who made effective use of secret intelligence, including the interception of mail from the British.

However, I do not need to remind anyone in this Chamber that we have not always gotten this delicate balance right. Hindsight has shown us that too often in our Nation's past we have tipped the scale too far from liberty in the face of outside threats, hostile adversaries, and most-troubling simply outspoken American citizens.

We know many of these excesses: the eavesdropping on Martin Luther King, Jr. and anti-war demonstrators, and of course, President Nixon's use of Federal resources to spy on political groups. History has judged those decisions as leaving an enduring stain on our institution and our government—as it should.

In the late 1970s, the Church Committee and this institution worked to curb domestic intelligence abuses. Checks and balances were restored among the three branches of government, and the ability of our government to protect all of us from national security dangers was enhanced while at the same time respecting our privacy rights.

These efforts led to the passage of the original Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, placing—for the first time—accountability and oversight of domestic intelligence gathering in the hands of courts and Congress. FISA also put an end to the practice of warrantless domestic wiretapping for national security reasons, mandating that domestic “national security” wiretaps be authorized by a court of law—creating a separation between domestic law enforcement and foreign surveillance for national security concerns.

Again, with that historical perspective in mind, I opposed those original proposals and I am glad that the House of Representatives staved off partisan ploys to push this body to rubber stamp those misguided efforts.

I believe that the bill we ultimately passed was a significant improvement in nearly every aspect over the Senate's or the President's proposals.

Madam Speaker, Mike Schmidt, the greatest third baseman who ever wore a glove for the Philadelphia Phillies once said, “Philadelphia is the only city where you can experience the thrill of victory and the agony of reading about it the next day.”

I empathized with Mr. Schmidt when I opened my morning paper the day after we voted on this critical piece of legislation.

That is why, Madam Speaker, I thought it necessary to elaborate on why I supported the bill, and clarify some common misconceptions about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the bipartisan changes we recently passed.

Madam Speaker, my decision to vote in favor of the FISA Amendments Act was not one that I came to lightly. As a former prosecutor charged to keep our community safe, somebody who has taught constitutional law for years to our future military leaders at West

Point, and proudly served this country in uniform, I thought and prayed long and hard about the best course of action. Now, as a member of Congress, it is still my duty to defend the constitution and work to keep our community safe.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that this House and this bill ultimately struck the right balance.

The FISA debate in the 110th Congress has been pushed by two events: the first, President Bush's unauthorized “terrorist surveillance program,” conducted outside the scope of FISA; and the second, a FISA court decision that most people, including myself, thought was wrongly decided and undermined our intelligence capabilities abroad.

It is widely agreed that no warrant should be necessary to tap the phone of a foreign national talking to another foreign national on foreign soil. The major point of contention, however—what this year-long wrangling has been about—is what to do when targeting, for example, a terrorist sect in Pakistan whose communications end up hitting American soil. Certainly it would be overly cumbersome and perhaps dangerous to require an individualized warrant for every foreign target in the off-chance their contacts involve an American; but correspondingly, assurances must be put in place to ensure that all U.S. citizens who might be caught in such surveillance are given the protections that they are due as Americans. This, Madam Speaker, was the needle we were required to thread.

The bill ensures that—in order to protect the rights of Americans—foreign surveillance targeting of non-U.S. persons abroad must be approved by the FISA Court prior to the start of any intelligence collection to ensure sufficient oversight of executive branch activities. This requires the administration to show how they determine that the targets of surveillance are actually foreigners and are actually located outside the United States. Additionally the FISA Court must approve the minimization procedures in place before surveillance can begin. Minimization is the process where the NSA prevents the dissemination of inadvertently collected information about U.S. persons. The bill also establishes a general prohibition against using FISA to “reverse target” Americans.

Additionally, the bill requires individual warrants from the FISA Court in every single case, based upon probable cause, to conduct surveillance of U.S. persons, whether at home or traveling abroad. While this provision has not been widely reported, this is an expansion of protections under the original FISA bill. For the first time, Madam Speaker, an individual probable cause determination and court-approved order will be needed to conduct surveillance of every American citizen, regardless of where they are located.

Perhaps most importantly, Madam Speaker, the bill restores FISA and existing criminal wiretap statutes as the exclusive means to conduct surveillance—making it clear that the no President will be able to sidestep the exclusivity provisions of FISA and disregard the civil liberties of the American people. Under this legislation the current President's illegal program of warrantless surveillance will officially come to an end, thereby firmly reestablishing basic judicial oversight over all domestic surveillance in the future.

The other major provision of the bill, Madam Speaker, is title II—defining the role of liability

litigation procedures for telecommunication companies. Madam Speaker, to be frank, as a former Federal prosecutor and the son of a Philadelphia police officer the issue of immunity has always been a tough pill to swallow. Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia and schooled at St. Anselm's Parish, I was reared in somewhat “black and white” terms—wrong-is-wrong and punished accordingly.

But quickly I learned, as a judge advocate and special assistant United States Attorney, that at certain times legal immunity is an unfortunate necessity to encourage cooperation and testimony against those more culpable of committing the underlying offense. Madam Speaker, I have never liked seeing people get away with only a slap on the wrist, but I have grown to understand it can be a necessary tool to insure that justice is served.

If the telecom companies are ultimately shielded from litigation by United State District Courts for their involvement with the current administration's illegal warrantless wiretapping program, they should be forthright and cooperate with congressional investigators pursuing those in the Bush administration who are truly to blame for the violation of our constitutional rights.

But more importantly, Madam Speaker, a principal reason for immunity in this instance is to keep civil lawsuits, or the fear of them, from establishing Federal policy on a matter of grave national concern—both because of the security interests and because of the civil liberty interests. This policy should be established and enforced through the actions of congress and the executive branch.

And just to be clear, Madam Speaker, nothing in this bill confers immunity on any government official for violating the law. In fact, this bill requires the inspectors general of four major national agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of the President's warrantless surveillance program and report back to the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees.

I promise the families in my district and across the country, that as long as I sit on the House Intelligence Committee, and as long as I serve in Congress, I will fight every day to demand answers and accountability from those who have held themselves above the law.

Madam Speaker, above all, I would like to note that the bill that passed this House was a much needed compromise. And as is the nature of any compromise, concessions were made and agreements reached in the effort to advance this piece of legislation. While it was not a perfect bill, nor is it the one I would have written, it is without question a significant improvement over prior flawed proposals.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a second to read a quote:

“The art of compromise, which is essential to democracy, seems to have gone out of style in recent years of angry all-or-nothing politics . . . the result is often no legislation, and many issues are left to fade or fester.”

That quote, though eerily reminiscent of our modern political paralysis, was published in a Time Magazine editorial—on March 29, 1976. The editorial, however, continues on and heaps praise on Congress and the executive branch for their efforts in overcoming partisan gridlock to do what we seek to do—limit unwarranted wiretapping done under the auspices of national security.

It was a compromise crafted by Attorney General Edward Levi and a Democratic Congress. A compromise that Time noted "beats showy confrontation, veto and stalemate." I think most of us, Madam Speaker, can agree that this sentiment rings just as true today.

Let me be clear. I am no Attorney General Levi, nor do I pretend to know how history will judge us or this legislation.

But I can promise that I sincerely believe that this bill—this compromise—threaded the needle and I am proud of our efforts.

Some of my friends on the left are not happy; some on the far right are not either. But we all take seriously, the incredible responsibility we are given. I hope and pray that history proves our fidelity to our Constitution, as well as our commitment to protecting the safety of those we serve.

HONORING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 79th anniversary of the founding of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC. This is a tremendous milestone and one in which LULAC members should take great pride. Under the leadership of National President, Rosa Rosales, LULAC continues to be an influential force in Congress and throughout the country.

LULAC is the largest and oldest civil rights and service organization in the United States. Since 1929, LULAC has worked tirelessly to advance the economic condition, increase access to quality health care and education, and civil rights of Latinos across the country. LULAC's commitment to the advancement of Latinos is demonstrated through the community-based programs it operates at more than 700 local councils nationwide.

Education has always been a top priority for LULAC. In 1975, the LULAC National Scholarship Fund LNSF was established to provide scholarships to Latino students who attend colleges and universities. LULAC's education efforts will continue to benefit future generations of Latino youth. I am also proud that LULAC has made proactive efforts to increase Latino civic participation in the United States through its voter registration and citizenship drives. LULAC plays a pivotal role in ensuring that Latinos are part of the political process on the local, state, and federal level.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating LULAC for all the hard work that it has done for the Latino community in the United States. LULAC is paving the way for generations after us to achieve even more. I look forward to continue working alongside LULAC to achieve social and economic justice for all Latinos.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. WILLIAM CHARLES DEMENT, LOWELL W. AND JOSEPHINE BERRY PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND DIVISION CHIEF OF THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF SLEEP

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. William C. Dement as he celebrates his 80th birthday and as his family, friends and colleagues gather to commemorate his lifelong efforts to improve the health and safety of this Nation by advancing understanding of sleep, sleep disorders and their impact on performance and functioning.

Dr. Dement received his M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1955 and 1957. There, he helped discover and describe Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, described the relationship between REM sleep and dreaming, established the all night sleep patterns of human beings, discovered REM sleep in animals and newborn babies, and demonstrated that the patterns of specific rapid eye movements are related to the visual experience of the dream. He transformed what was once thought of as a passive state that was undeserving of medical attention or curiosity into a medical specialty.

In 1963, Dr. Dement joined the Psychiatry Department at Stanford University, where for the past 45 years he has continued his studies on the neurochemistry of sleep and the functional significance of the different sleep states.

In 1970, Dr. Dement started the world's first Sleep Disorders Clinic which introduced all-night examination of patients with sleep-related complaints. He developed the Multiple Sleep Latency Test which remains the standard diagnostic measure of daytime sleepiness and made many other scientific contributions.

Among the most important of these are the elucidation of sleep debt and the long term consequences of sleep deprivation in all components of society. Dr. Dement is the author or co-author of approximately 500 scientific publications and the founding co-editor of the premier scientific journal, SLEEP.

Dr. Dement was co-founder of the Sleep Research Society in 1961 and founding President of the American Sleep Disorders Association (now the American Academy of Sleep Medicine) in 1975. Dr. Dement currently holds the position of honorary board member of the National Sleep Foundation, the Nation's leading non-profit organization dedicated to improving the understanding of sleep disorders.

Dr. Dement served as chairman of the congressionally-mandated National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research whose study and recommendations led directly to the cre-

ation of a new agency within the National Institutes of Health, the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Dement's work with patients. If it was not for Dr. Dement, my sleep apnea would probably still be undiagnosed and I would be like millions of other Americans who needlessly suffer due to a lack of public and professional awareness of the signs and symptoms of sleep disorders.

Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 15th Congressional District of California, I am pleased to join with the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. William C. Dement in celebrating his 80th birthday. May he be blessed with many more.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1315, a resolution that commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

NASA was established in 1958 and has become one of the premier research institutions in the United States. Through NASA, the United States has put humans on the moon, helped build the International Space Station, sent spacecraft to investigate Mars, and has built the Hubble Telescope to view more of the universe. NASA research has also been used to improve products that have changed our world—from airplanes to communications satellites.

Research and innovation is crucial to the United States' global competitiveness. Since its beginning, NASA has inspired many children to study math, science, engineering and technology. My district is home to Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary Magnet School of St. Paul, Minnesota, which is a NASA Explorer School. This initiative incorporates NASA content and programs into science, technology and mathematics curriculum in the classroom. When I have met with the teachers and students at Farnsworth, I have witnessed the enthusiasm and inquiry that the NASA curriculum generates. Through the Explorer School program, NASA helps to produce the scientists, engineers, researchers, explorers, innovators, and astronauts of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.