

exclusively provide emergency medical services.

Our current tax code prohibits the use of tax-exempt bonds for the purchase of airplanes. This exclusion was meant to prevent the use of tax-exempt bonds for frivolous purposes, including corporate jets. My legislation would continue the ban on using tax-exempt bonds for extravagant reasons and simply allow tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that exclusively provide emergency medical services.

This issue is particularly important to my district because Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS), a non-profit organization based in Spokane, is looking to expand air ambulance service to rural areas by purchasing new planes. In 2007, INHS provided 2,891 emergency medical flights. INHS currently serves Central and Eastern Washington, as well as parts of Oregon, Idaho and Montana. In my district, INHS serves residents in Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas and Klickitat counties.

The IRS currently allows tax-exempt bonds to be used to purchase helicopters for air ambulance services. Some may wonder why then do we need to amend the tax code for fixed wing aircraft. In rural areas, such as my district, the use of helicopters is often impractical because of the long distances that patients must be transported. Airplanes are commonly the best mode of transportation for critically ill patients because they can travel longer distances and provide the safest and fastest mode of travel during inclement weather.

While I have focused on why this legislation is important to the residents of my district, I want to be clear that my legislation does not only assist the non-profit INHS. Under this bill, any organization that would like to obtain tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that are exclusively dedicated to providing acute emergency care would be eligible.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple change to our tax code and I hope that this bill will become law in the very near future.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI RECOGNIZED BY THE NASA'S 2008 UNIVERSITY STUDENT FUTURE AIRCRAFT COMPETITION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor students from the University of Miami participating in NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition. These four students placed second out of sixty-one students from 14 universities around the world. This is a tremendous accomplishment not only for these four students, but also for the future of our Nation's air transportation systems. I know that I join with our entire community in honoring their success.

Each team was asked to create a future subsonic transport aircraft that could carry up to 50,000 pounds, operate on runways between 1,500 and 3,000 feet long, and cruise at speeds between 595 and 625 mph. The competition also stressed that the planes should

use alternative fuels and be quieter and more environmentally friendly than today's commercial fleet. The team from the University of Miami successfully created The 2058 Aircraft: Quiet Ultra-Efficient Integrated Aircraft, which placed them second over all. The Nation's air transportation system is under tremendous pressure to increase performance and capacity without causing additional damage to the environment and this competition is paramount to aiding the advancement of aircraft technology.

With all their hard work, skill and commitment to excellence, these young adults managed to earn a very notable title. These students truly deserve to be recognized for their accomplishment.

I also recognize that it was with the support of their parents, professors and friends that these students were able to compete and stand out in such a demanding competition. Several NASA experts judge the University Student Future Aircraft Competition and it is no easy task to earn their approval.

I would like to submit the names of the University of Miami students recognized by the NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition: Sebastian Aspe, Joseph Dussling, Nicholas Heinz, and Daniel Martinez.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful students and the faculty at University of Miami for their success at NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 506, on the Wittman Motion to Recommit with instructions, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH BIRTHDAY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 40th birthday of the Special Olympics. Experts agree that this organization has had a more positive impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities than any other organization of its kind.

Illinois is divided into 17 Special Olympic areas. My area, area 12 consists of 8 counties and works with over 1000 athletes. At least 8 weeks prior to the competition, volunteer coaches work with individuals to prepare them to compete in one or more of the 12 sports offered by Special Olympics. Through the Special Olympics, athletes better their physical fitness, motor skills, and self-image, as well as gain confidence that will carry over into their daily lives.

The Special Olympics are not only beneficial to the athletes themselves, but benefit the families of the athletes as well. Families gain

a stronger appreciation and respect for their athlete's abilities. Volunteers within the organization also gain a great satisfaction from interactions with the athletes and seeing them succeed.

The Special Olympics can only be made possible through the generous donations of money and time through its supporters and volunteers. Fundraisers and donations make this remarkable program possible. For all those that make this program possible, I would like to thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. You have made an impact on the lives of all the athletes. For the athletes, congratulations on your amazing accomplishments, within the Special Olympics and all other aspects of your life. I wish every one of you nothing but the best in the future.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA DURING ITS NATIONAL BOULÉ CONFERENCE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my enthusiastic congratulations and support of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during its national Boulé conference celebrating 100 years of the organization in Washington, DC. The sorority, founded at Howard University on January 15, 1908, is the first Greek-lettered sorority established and incorporated by a group of nine African-American college women. The AKA sorority broke barriers for African-American women in areas where little power or authority existed due to a lack of opportunities for minorities and women in the early twentieth century.

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, the sorority consists of college-educated women of African, Caucasian, Asian, and Hispanic descent. The sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in over 900 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

Since its inception, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and economic conditions through community service programs. Members have improved education through independent initiatives, contributed to community-building by creating programs and influenced Federal legislation by legislation advocacy through the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights.

My wife Vera, is a proud member of Tau Gamma Omega graduate chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Two of my sisters, Ceola and Floretta, are also AKA's. Tau Gamma Omega often meet in our home and I have always been very proud of the leadership and mentoring relationship my wife has established and continues to display with younger women who join. Tau Gamma Omega is a strong voice and positive presence in the community where they serve.

As a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha and the United States House of Representatives, I commend the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on all their continuing endeavors to help the community, and I welcome the

26,000 attending members of the 2008 Centennial Boulé to their founding place of Washington, DC.

PLANO WEST BASEBALL CAP-
TURES NATIONAL CHAMPS
TITLE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently I congratulated the new high school baseball national championship team—Plano West Senior High School.

I also want to recognize additional people who contributed to the Wolves. Coaches: Greg Pierce, Assistant Coach; Greg Coutermarsh, Assistant Coach; Denny Garver, Assistant Coach. Players: Dustin Ellis; Sam Roberson; Ronnie Cooper—Student Manager; Karen Clark—Bat boy.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SALEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Salem Lutheran Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary; and

Whereas, the congregation of Salem Lutheran continue to be active, enthusiastic members of our community; and

Whereas, the 175th anniversary of Salem Lutheran Church has drawn new and old congregation members to Evans Creek, Ohio to celebrate the life of their church: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Salem Lutheran Church and its congregation for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 175 years.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT
PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

MR. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of the Neighbor Revitalization Tax Credit Program in New Jersey. This program allows New Jersey Corporations to allocate State corporate tax dollars to specific and approved nonprofit programs that revitalize a community.

Sanofi-Aventis pharmaceuticals took advantage of this program and dedicated \$1 million of their State corporate tax dollars to the Unity Square project. This project will acquire and develop 11 housing units for New Brunswick residents.

In addition to subsidizing the new housing, a portion of the funds will also be used to hire a nurse practitioner and a registered nurse to work extended hours at a local health clinic. The extended hours will enable the clinic to serve an additional 400 to 500 patients a year who would otherwise not receive medical care.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sanofi-Aventis, New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill, and the State of New Jersey for their dedication and creativity addressing unmet housing and medical needs.

PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP AND
FAIR LENDING PRACTICES FOR
ALL AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution calling on Congress to support the goal of increased and sustainable homeownership in the United States. It is absolutely vital that Congress recommit itself to the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving the goal of homeownership.

My legislation has been updated from its previous introduction as H. Con. Res. 107 of the 109th Congress to reflect the current status of the housing market and the enduring need to improve access to homeownership. Once again, this resolution would put Congress on record recognizing fair lending and housing laws enacted to prevent and combat discriminatory practices which undermine homeownership efforts for all Americans.

Today, the current foreclosure crisis is a major stumbling block on the road to homeownership. Many are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve the American Dream of homeownership, which was beyond reach even before the emergence of our current crisis. When it comes to the health and vitality of America's communities, affordable housing is key. Congress has a responsibility to foster and promote an active, growing, and fair housing market in light of the significant stress this market experienced in 2007 and 2008. Most Americans' primary investment is in their home, and homeownership is the most common way for families to build and pass on wealth from one generation to another.

This resolution recognizes how important the establishment of homeownership programs and fair lending and housing laws have been to equalizing access to homeownership for all Americans. In particular, eliminating the disparities in homeownership rates between white families and minority families continues to be a goal of critical importance. In 2008, the homeownership rate for white Americans was 72 percent, but the rate was only 47.2 percent for African Americans and 49.7 percent for Hispanic Americans. With almost 4,000,000 fair housing violations occurring annually, we must continue to support efforts aimed at ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to own a home.

This resolution also recognizes the detriment of predatory lending practices, which principally occur in the subprime market, and

their contribution to the housing market's worst slump in 16 years. As many as 2 million Americans will see their mortgage rates increase in the next 2 years. We must address the plight of borrowers victimized by predatory lenders and high priced mortgage alternatives by advocating consumer protections against abusive practices.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced this legislation with a number of my colleagues in 2005 and eventually garnered the support of 31 co-sponsors. To once again express the commitment of Congress to promoting homeownership, I have made a few key updates to this legislation. They reflect the current status of the housing market marred by the residual impacts of predatory lending practices, primarily in the sub-prime loan market. This legislation has also been updated to recognize specific initiatives to stem the rise of foreclosures.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friends who have joined me today to introduce this legislation, as well as the National Fair Housing Alliance, Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, all of which have endorsed the resolution. I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Olympics on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for athletes. In addition, every two years, athletes from all over the world come together to compete in the Special Olympics World Games. The United States and the State of Idaho are proud and honored to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. This event will attract more than 3,000 athletes from over 100 nations to compete in seven Winter Olympic-type sporting events. This will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the State of Idaho.

On July 23, 2007, my colleagues in the House of Representatives and I unanimously passed a resolution commending Idaho on winning the bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Among other things, this resolution expresses Congress's support for the 2009 Games, congratulates Idaho as the host of the Games, and applauds the goals of the Special Olympics to enrich the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sports.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to work closely with Special Olympics and its staff both in Idaho and Washington, DC. I would like to commend the organization for the great work that it is doing on behalf of the thousands of Special Olympians throughout