

assess whether some of the critical language needs in the intelligence community can be met by these Iraqi and Afghan interpreters who have already proven their loyalty through their service to our government. In doing so, my hope is that we could meet this urgent need for translators and interpreters in the intelligence community while providing meaningful employment to individuals who have risked their lives in service of our country.

I thank Chairman REYES and the Committee again for their support of my amendment, which is included in the Manager's amendment, and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

TRIBUTE TO CARLO J. DiMARCO

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carlo J. DiMarco for his appointment as the 112th president of the American Osteopathic Association, the national organization that represents over 61,000 osteopathic physicians.

Dr. DiMarco has established himself as a distinguished leader within osteopathic community. A graduate of LaSalle College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), DiMarco spent more than 30 years working in Delaware County in Philadelphia, where he worked to strengthen and expand the ophthalmology residency program at PCOM. He has served as a board of trustees member and past president of several prestigious osteopathic organizations including the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, as well as the American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

In 2005, DiMarco was recruited to LECOM, located in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. As the Professor and Regional Dean of Clinical Medicine, DiMarco is further developing the instructional and training programs at LECOM. By building relationships with students, residents and physician colleagues, DiMarco continues to contribute to his profession. He also serves as the director of the Ophthalmology Residency Program at Millcreek Hospital in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Dr. DiMarco has truly been a community leader in the ophthalmology field. An outstanding physician, he continues the osteopathic tradition of assuring exemplary ophthalmology.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Carlo DiMarco and wishing him the best for a successful and rewarding tenure as the 112th president of the American Osteopathic Association.

DRILL RESPONSIBLY IN LEASED LANDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6515, the Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands (DRILL) Act. I would like to thank the Speaker and the Democratic Leadership for taking action on the urgent and vitally important issue of high fuel prices and energy security.

In the face of high gasoline and fuel prices that are creating economic hardship for Americans, it is important that we maximize use of the resources that we have at our disposal today. The DRILL Act does this by requiring oil companies to drill in the 68 million acres of federal lands already leased but sitting idle. Such a measure is an important first step in our country's energy policy.

We have heard many calls from President Bush and our Republican colleagues for opening up new lands for drilling, both in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Though these may seem like quick-fixes to our energy problems, they are misleading and do not address the problem of high prices and dependence on fossil fuels in the short or long-term. Neither OCS nor ANWR would produce oil for at least the next ten years. Congressional expert projections indicate no significant impact on oil and natural gas prices before 2030. Even then, there is no guarantee that increased production would affect prices at all. Oil prices are determined on an international market, and OPEC could neutralize the effect on oil prices by offsetting any additional supply U.S. oil production brings to the market.

The reality is that while we must look for ways to increase our domestic oil production in the shorter-term—as the DRILL Act does,—we cannot drill ourselves out of our energy problems in the long-term. The United States consumes 25 percent of the world's oil but only holds 3 percent of the world's known oil reserves. To ensure our country's security, prosperity, and environmental sustainability we must shift to cleaner sources of energy and increase efficiency in our energy use. Moving to clean, renewable energy sources will enhance our energy independence, bolster our economy through the creation of green jobs, and promote environmental sustainability. Biofuels, wind and solar energy are promising alternatives to oil and coal, and it is vital to invest in research and production incentives for these technologies. At the same time we must increase energy efficiency in our buildings and transportation sector.

Most importantly, Americans must think critically and proactively about lifestyle changes that simultaneously preserve the prosperity of our country and promote responsible stewardship of our planet.

Mr. Speaker, America's energy problem is a daunting one, but it is one we can solve if we work together to enact responsible policies for the short and long-term. I urge my colleagues to support the DRILL Act, as it is an important first step in the right direction. In the long-term, we must enact smart, forward looking policies that move us toward cleaner, sustain-

able energy and ensure prosperity and a healthy planet for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS MARTENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gladys Martens on the occasion of her 100th birthday on July 15, 2008.

Gladys was born on July 15, 1908 in Adair County, Iowa, as Gladys Petrie. She is a graduate of Drake University and was a teacher in Linden, Iowa. In 1939, she married Grant Martens and moved to a farm in rural Madison County, where she lived until 1997. Gladys is a life-long member of Van Meter Trinity Lutheran Church and currently lives at the West Bridge Care Center in Winterset, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Gladys' birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Gladys has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Gladys Martens for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Gladys in the United States Congress, and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, in 1940 the U.S. population was about 131 million, 12.6 million of which was African American, or about 10 percent of the total population.

During World War II, the Army had become the Nation's largest minority employer. Of the 2.5 million African Americans males who registered for the draft more than one million were inducted into the armed forces. African Americans, who constituted approximately 11 per cent of all draftees. Along with thousands of black women, these inductees served with distinction in all branches of service and in all Theaters of Operations during World War II.

I have a proud personal connection to one of those who risked their lives in the segregated service. Over 966 Black military aviators were trained at the Tuskegee Airfield. One of these men, I am proud to say, was my uncle, the Reverend LeRoy Cleaver, Jr.

The Tuskegee Airmen carried a heavy burden. Every single mission, every success, every failure was viewed in relation to the color of their skin. They could fly the skies valiantly and return to the tarmac only to have their white peers refuse to return their salutes.

Even the Nazis asked why African American men would fight for a country that treated them so unfairly. Yet the Tuskegee Airmen were eager to fly and die for a Nation that had done little for them.

These men, like over a million others who fought in World War II, fought two wars: One was in Europe, and the other in the hearts and minds of Americans.

As a poignant example, the white commander of the Tuskegee airfield was once asked—with all seriousness—how do African Americans fly? He said, “Oh, they fly just like everybody else flies—stick and rudder.” Little by little, every victory at war was translated to a victory here in the United States.

On February 2, 1948, President Truman, in no small part due to the bravery of the men of Tuskegee, announced in a special message to Congress that he had, “instructed the Secretary of Defense to take steps to have the remaining instances of discrimination in the armed services eliminated as rapidly as possible.”

President Truman’s former colleagues and drinking partners, the Senators from the Southern States immediately threatened a filibuster. The typically bull-headed man from Missouri forced the issue by using his executive powers. Among other things, Truman bolstered the civil rights division, appointed the first African American judge to the Federal bench, named several other African Americans to high-ranking administration positions, and most important, 60 years ago on July 26, 1948, he issued an executive order abolishing segregation in the armed forces and ordering full integration of all the services.

Executive Order 9981 declared that “there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.” By the end of the Korean conflict, almost all the military was integrated.

The men and women I am proud to represent in Missouri’s Fifth District have contributed a great deal to this Nation we love. They have fought wars, supplied the expansion the West, founded religions, painted masterpieces, composed symphonies—but perhaps none have done more to shape the face of the earth than President Truman. May history always remember Executive Order 9981 as quintessential Truman. In classic Truman style, the order was an example of making a decision not because it was easy, but because it was the right thing to do.

RECOGNIZING THE ESCAMBIA FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN’S CLUB UPON ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club upon their 50th anniversary.

For the past 50 years the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club, EFRWC, has been working to better the government at all levels. Since 1958, these women have do-

nated thousands of volunteer hours to ensure Republican victories in endless political campaigns. The election of countless county, State, and Federal representatives is due to the hard work and dedication of its spirited members.

In addition to their civic dedications, the EFRWC is also a large force in the local community. Favor House, ARC Gateway, and the Ronald McDonald House are just a highlight of the local charities that have benefitted from the outstanding philanthropy of these women. The Lillian Baines Memorial Scholarship for Political Science and Communications students is another program funded by the EFRWC’s benevolence. The group also benefits political education locally by mentoring young Republican women, thereby strengthening conservative values and viewpoints in the areas they serve.

The EFRWC persistently serves the community and its volunteers play a vital role in the physiology of elections. They take on numerous responsibilities and assist with the vital aspects of campaign work. The women of EFRWC have exceeded the expected duties of volunteers and their 50th anniversary is evidence of their immense philanthropy. The EFRWC’s dedication and devotion to Republican candidates benefits the entire community and their outstanding accomplishments have distinguished them as one of the great organizations in Northwest Florida. Escambia County is greatly indebted to their service and is honored to have them as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club on its 50th anniversary.

ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO MAKE GRANTS REGARDING BACKUP PAPER BALLOTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Backup Paper Ballot Bill. This bill will ensure our commitment to improving a secure, reliable, accessible voting system for all Americans, and help secure our nation’s confidence in the election result.

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights in our democratic system. The U.S. Constitution promises every eligible American an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the political process. In order to keep our country strong, we must encourage our citizens to vote and when they vote, we must guarantee that their vote will count.

The 2008 election promises to bring out record numbers to the polls. In past elections, such as Florida and Pennsylvania, machine failures caused voters to be turned away and long lines at the polls. Encouraging the use of emergency paper ballots will help ensure that every voter will have their vote count, and make it less likely that voters will be turned away from the polls because of machine malfunction. Although many states require backup paper ballots they don’t have the resources to do it.

This bill will provide grants to state and local governments to purchase backup paper ballots in the event that an electronic voting system fails to operate properly or there is some other emergency situation. Participation would be voluntary and states would have to institute eligible programs.

We must take the necessary precautions to ensure that the voices of all Americans are heard in the 2008 election. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to submit for the RECORD a letter from several health organizations supporting the Public Health Emergency Response Act of 2008, which I introduced earlier today.

JULY 22, 2008.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,

U.S. Senate,

Washington, DC.

Hon. LOIS CAPPS,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN AND REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS: The undersigned organizations join in supporting your introduction of the Public Health Emergency Response Act (PHERA), legislation that would put a turn-key process into place which would ensure that victims of a public health emergency have immediate access to medically necessary healthcare services and help ensure that we have a functioning health care system.

A public health emergency, such as a natural disaster, biologic attack or infectious disease outbreak, could strike at any time. The September 11th attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have underscored the need for rapid access to healthcare services during and immediately following a public health emergency. Following Hurricane Katrina, Congress ultimately approved \$2.1 billion for grants to certain states to cover the Medicaid and SCHIP matching requirements for individuals enrolled in these programs, and the cost of uncompensated care for the uninsured. However, it took six months for Congress to pass the Deficit Reduction Act, which provided for these funds. This unnecessary delay could have been prevented. PHERA would put into place ahead of time a framework for providing reimbursement for uncompensated care in the event of a major public health emergency.

The temporary benefit established through this bill would help remove a disincentive for uninsured individuals to promptly seek medical care. Any delay in seeking care could result in lives lost, particularly during an infectious disease outbreak when immediate identification and isolation are very important, and delay in seeking care could render treatment ineffective. At a time when our health care system could be overwhelmed with patients, it is vital that reimbursement issues not dissuade providers from offering care. A study by the Center for Biosecurity estimated that U.S. hospitals could lose as much as \$3.9 billion in uncompensated care and cash flow losses in the event of a severe pandemic. By helping to reduce the burden of uncompensated care, PHERA would help ensure the solvency and continuity and our