

collection of funds, the government has only allocated \$5 million to educate the public about the transition, which is less than 0.03 percent of the \$19 billion in revenue from the auction. The results have been as obvious as they have been preventable. A December 2007 survey by Consumer Reports found that 36 percent of respondents were completely unaware of the transition. How can we tell our constituents that we did everything we could when we spent next to nothing on educating them about the transition?

Instead the Bush Administration has privatized the outreach aspect of the transition, relying on private industry to inform viewers. The results have led to a jumble of different messages from different industries, all looking to benefit from the transition. There are examples of public service announcements supposedly made to inform consumers about the transition instead being thinly veiled advertisements for their own products.

The problems do not stop there. With only a 90 day window to buy converter boxes before their coupons expire, many rural customers are finding that many stores either do not carry any converter boxes or they are not carrying a pass through capable converter box that the customer will need in order to get all of their channels. These customers should not be penalized because of where they live.

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step but it is only a step. We must do more to ensure that when Americans wake up on February 17th 2009, they are not left in the dark.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3999) to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3999, the National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.

In February, I joined experts from the Delaware Department of Transportation for a tour of some of the most heavily traveled roads and bridges in Delaware. I have often heard Delaware referred to as "The East Coast's Main Street"—and it is true. In fact, during our tour, we visited construction sites where men and women were working diligently on important highway, infrastructure, and bridge projects that are utilized by an estimated 230,000 vehicles every day.

Over the next 50 years, the United States is projected to add 150 million new residents, representing a 50 percent increase over our present population. This population surge will put a greater strain on our transportation system—particularly at key chokepoints in dense areas like the northeast corridor. And last Au-

gust, the tragic Minneapolis bridge collapse, which killed 13 and injured 145, underscored the serious safety implications of this dramatic increase in highway users when combined with severely aging infrastructure.

Clearly, this situation will continue to deteriorate unless we act soon. For this reason, I support passage of H.R. 3999 and I believe it is vital that we identify and prioritize funding to repair structurally deficient bridges to ensure the safety of all travelers. I also feel strongly that the Federal Government must allow States the appropriate flexibility to allocate these resources as efficiently as possible. I am hopeful that we will make progress in improving these provisions and reducing burdensome spending requirements when this legislation goes to conference with the U.S. Senate.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Act of 2008. I salute Chairman FRANK, Chairman RANGEL and Senator DODD for their leadership and their efforts to pass this crucial legislation at a time when American families desperately need our help.

Families across the country are hurting. They're being squeezed by the price of oil, rising food costs, higher education costs and now the struggle to hold onto their homes. For most Americans their main asset is their home. That's why it is critical to end the foreclosure crisis which is fundamental to the recovery of our economy.

My home State of California has been affected as badly as any State in our country. Foreclosures in the Bay area are at a 20-year high, and in Santa Clara County foreclosures are up 512 percent from a year ago. These troubling figures must change and that's why I support this legislation.

H.R. 3221 aims to bolster American homeownership by helping families across the country facing foreclosure keep their homes. It also takes steps to ensure that homeowners do not face foreclosures in the future. Affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families and seniors are expanded through the modernization of the Federal Housing Administration, with FHA loan limits raised to create affordable mortgage loans for moderately priced homes. A permanent Affordable Housing Trust Fund is also created in this bill which will fund building projects throughout the Nation to increase the stock of affordable housing in both urban and rural areas. Tax credits for first time homebuyers and low income homeowners are also included in this legislation and all of these items are accomplished without creating any new burdens to the taxpayer.

The bill provides a new and substantially strengthened regulator to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. It gives stand-in authority to the Treasury Department in case the Government Sponsored Entities, such as Fannie Mae, re-

quire temporary federal financial intervention without placing any new risk on the American taxpayer. This is not a bailout. Taxpayers will be the first in line to be paid back before any shareholders are. Restrictions have been placed on the stock gains for shareholders and on compensation for the executives of the Government Sponsored Entities until taxpayers are fully reimbursed.

I'm proud to support this bill and I urge a "yes" vote on the underlying legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREVENTION OF EQUINE CRUELTY ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008," along with Representatives BURTON, RAHALL, WALTER JONES, MORAN, CHABOT, GRIJALVA, BOBBY SCOTT, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, SCHAKOWSKY, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, NADLER and SUTTON. This bill criminalizes the possession, sale and transport of horses in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Horses have played an important role in the development of our country. They still fill the role of workhorses, racehorses, rodeo horses and pets. Unlike cattle and other livestock, horses in this country have never been raised as a human food source.

The United States does not have a single plant where horses are slaughtered for human consumption, but such slaughterhouses operate across our borders in Mexico and Canada. Horses are bought at auctions within the United States and then transported to these foreign slaughterhouses for hours in packed and hot trailers without water, food or rest. The slaughter process that awaits these horses in many of the foreign plants is cruel and barbaric, and exists beyond the reach of United States law.

The only way to prevent horses from suffering this fate is to stop the sale and transport of horses to these foreign slaughterhouses before they leave the United States. This bill will do that.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to thank the men and women of the Bureau for their dedicated service to the American people. Over the last century, the FBI has been

an unwavering and powerful force in the ongoing struggle to protect the United States from terrorism and enforce our laws against increasingly sophisticated criminal forces.

Formed in 1908 when then-U.S. Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte asked Stanley W. Finch to lead the Department of Justice's primary investigative division, the FBI began as a relatively small team of 34 Federal agents with no special name or designation. Over time, it grew into a strong and effective leader among U.S. law enforcement organizations.

Today, the FBI has 56 field offices here in the United States, as well as close to 65 legal attaché offices across the world. The Bureau employs roughly 30,000 people, 12,000 of whom are sworn Special Agents. All of these highly-trained men and women deserve our deep gratitude and respect for putting their lives on the line each and every day to protect this country from enemies foreign and domestic. I also would like to express my thanks to FBI Director Robert Mueller for his steadfast leadership of this dedicated group.

My home district, the 13th of Illinois, falls under the jurisdiction of the FBI's Chicago Division. I would especially like to thank the men and women of that office who have dedicated their careers to the protection of individuals and families—including my own—that reside in the Chicago region.

Under the capable leadership of Special Agent In-Charge Robert D. Grant and Assistant Special Agents In-Charge Bob Holly, Mitch Marrone, Bob Shields, Bill Monroe, and Arthur Everett, the highly-regarded Chicago Division has been a powerful force against criminal elements both in the city and throughout northern Illinois.

This Friday, July 25th, the Chicago Field Office will join the Chicago chapter of the FBI Citizen's Academy Alumni Association at Chicago's Navy Pier to celebrate the Bureau's 100-year anniversary. I wish them and all of the other field offices and alumni chapters celebrating this milestone the best as they toast to their past and look forward to future success.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the FBI on the occasion of its 100-year anniversary, and thank the men and women—both those serving today and those who sacrificed so much for us in the past—for their tireless service. Truly, they have fulfilled their duties in accordance with the Bureau's long-held motto of "fidelity, bravery, and integrity."

AMY U. HICKMAN, FINDING SAFE
HOMES FOR OUR CHILDREN

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the tireless efforts of a true local hero, Amy U. Hickman, Esquire.

A long-time Florida resident, Amy earned an Undergraduate and law degree from the University of Florida, then went on to intern for Judge Alcee Hastings, now my friend and colleague in Congress. Since then, Amy has made a name for herself championing adoption legislation improvements.

Amy is known by her peers for her skills as a keen litigator and as THE go-to person for adoption cases.

She had been an associate civil trial litigator at a prestigious South Florida law firm, but Amy chose to devote her career to serving the neediest in our community—our children.

In 1996, Amy co-founded her own practice, with her partner Michelle Hausmann, to specialize in adoption placement, litigation, parental rights and surrogacy.

In 2002, Amy drafted substantial revisions to Florida's adoption law and has successfully lobbied to help children in the Florida legislature.

Amy continues to be a force for positive change. Her career is a testament to her devotion to children that need a home. That is why I nominated Amy as an "angel in Adoption." Her commitment to finding safe homes for our kids is unparalleled. Countless children enjoy a caring childhood, thanks to Amy Hickman. I commend her for her service.

HONORING CHIEF RAY SAMUELS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Ray Samuels' retirement from the Newark, California Police Department and to honor his thirty-four years of exemplary service in law enforcement.

Chief Samuels began his law enforcement career as a community service officer in 1974 with the city of Vallejo, California. He was promoted to police officer the following year. In 1981 he began an eighteen-year career with the Police Department of Concord, California. During his tenure, Chief Samuels held numerous positions within this organization, including Traffic Bureau Commander and Professional Standards Unit Commander.

In March 1999, Chief Samuels joined the Newark Police Department as a Lieutenant. He was responsible for the Administrative Division, Personnel and Training and the Investigation Division. He was promoted to the rank of Captain three years later in April 2002 and appointed Chief of Police in 2003. He became the seventh Police Chief since the City's 1955 incorporation.

Chief Samuels received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Golden Gate University. He is also a graduate of the California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training Command College, Boston's Senior Management Institute for Police, and the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Chief Samuel has been instrumental in the implementation of Community Policing strategies while serving the Newark community. He facilitated the reorganization of the Community Services Division, which was designed to improve coordination and enhance the efforts of the code enforcement unit and the patrol division. Chief Samuels was also actively involved in facilitating a unique partnership between the Newark Police Department and the Newark Unified School District. Under his leadership, a three-officer Community Safety Team was developed and began its focus on gang education, intervention, and enforcement in July 2006.

I join the City of Newark in applauding Chief Samuels' leadership within the Newark Police Department and expressing appreciation for his commitment to community service. He has not only guided the Newark Police Department to excellence but has been active in civic and non-profit organizations to make a difference in the lives of others.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. DICK
AND BETTE GAMEGAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dick and Bette Gamegan on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. This is truly a remarkable milestone and I am proud to stand here to recognize this extraordinary couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Gamegan met in high school and quickly became a young couple.

On July 17, 1938, Dick and Bette exchanged wedding vows before relatives and friends at Bette's mother's home in Fresno, California. That hot summer day in Fresno was the start of a union that has spanned seven decades. They spent their honeymoon in Pacific Grove, California where Mr. Gamegan was a golf caddy for the nearby golf course, Pebble Beach.

Mr. Gamegan's later position as a sales manager for the Sears Department Store moved the couple to several different cities across the Nation. Wherever his career would take them, they happily acclimated to each new place and shared the journey that each new city presented.

After working for the Sears Company, Mr. Gamegan purchased and operated Gibbel Hardware Store in California's Central Valley. After his retirement in 1972, the couple made their home in the mountains of Coarsegold, California where they currently reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Gamegan's family includes a daughter, Karen, and one granddaughter.

Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Gamegan have traveled extensively throughout the world and have shared countless memories together. Since their honeymoon trip to Pacific Grove, the two have been enthusiastic to visit as many places as possible.

In addition to their strong commitment to one another, Mr. and Mrs. Gamegan have shared a tireless dedication for community involvement in their area. They are outstanding community leaders and strong advocates in many worthwhile causes.

Dick and Bette Gamegan have served actively on many neighborhood organizations and projects. Mr. Gamegan is an active member of the Lions and Kiwanis Club. In addition to other charitable work, Mrs. Gamegan served on the Los Ninos Guild for many years, which raised money to benefit the local children's hospital.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gamegan on their 70th wedding anniversary. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable couple on their special milestone and to wish them many more years of happiness.