

to respect the scientific recommendations of the Secretary of Commerce and the IWC's Scientific Committee, and continued to respect the bowhead whale. But they cannot be used as political footballs by the IWC and they cannot have their need for the bowhead whale delayed if the IWC fails to renew their quota in a timely manner.

This legislation will ensure that the AEWC will have their cultural and nutritional needs met in the event that the IWC fails to act to renew their quota or if the IWC decided to hold their quota hostage for political reasons, but does so in a manner that is based on science and the needs of the Alaskan Native people as determined by the Secretary of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ELYSE
JOHNSTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, next Wednesday, July 30th, will mark the 100th birthday of Mrs. Elyse Johnston of DeKalb, Texas. I am honored to join Congressman KEVIN BRADY in recognizing her today and sharing a small part of her life's story.

Born in Quitman, Texas, to Samuel Jackson Benton and Margaret Florence Jones Benton, Mrs. Johnston has witnessed a tremendous amount of change in her 100 years. When she entered the world, the Wright Brothers had only recently made history in North Carolina, and Henry Ford was still a few months away from introducing the world to the Model T. One hundred years later, the world is a much different place. Most of my colleagues will shortly get on a plane holding hundreds of people to get home for the weekend and will be delivered to the airport through considerable traffic congestion by cars that can hardly be compared to Ford's cutting edge invention.

Through her early years of education in Quitman, the one thing that made Elyse happy was music and playing the piano. This would become her lifelong passion. Starting with the First Baptist Church, Elyse played in too many revivals to count. Her reputation as a pianist spread and soon she was being asked to play for all the Methodist church revivals as well. Because she always loved to dance, she claimed to be a "Baptist with Methodist feet." She was elected a Burleson Beauty while she completed her college studies at Burleson College and prepared to enter the working world as a teacher.

After 2 years of teaching in Pleasant Ridge, she scraped together enough money to purchase a Ford Roadster and move back to Quitman. It was here that she would meet her future husband, Bentley Johnston, and where they would have their first date on Easter Sunday. It was clear to Bentley that he had met his bride to be, and he was so distracted that he skipped on his responsibility of watching the holiday dinner and the family ended up eating a burned roast for Easter.

After getting married, they moved to DeKalb and began farming cotton and soy beans and raising cattle. Times were hard during the Depression, but they managed in part due to the large garden and fruit trees that Elyse was

able to maintain and use to help make ends meet by supplying groceries to the area families. The family sacrificed to keep the farm going through the Depression and 5 straight years of crop failure; that old Roadster Elyse saved to buy lost its engine to keep a tractor in the fields. After several years on the farm, the family moved back to town in 1951.

Her love of the piano has never ended and as a church pianist, she has played in revivals and choirs for 42 years and made a name for herself through her showy offertories, leading one pastor to encourage her with, "Well, swing it sister!"

Elyse helped raise two daughters who still live in DeKalb. She celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with Bentley shortly before he passed away in 1980. Her "Methodist Feet" haven't left her yet, and she still enjoys community shows, working in the garden and playing cards. "Nanny" to her six grandchildren and five great grandchildren, she is still very much independent and shows no signs of slowing down.

Madam Speaker, Congressman BRADY and I ask those in the chamber and our colleagues to join us in wishing a very happy 100th birthday to Mrs. Elyse Johnston.

TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION
IN CYPRUS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the unconscionable 34 years of Turkish military occupation in Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, in blatant violation of international law. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. Today, Turkey has 43,000 troops occupying northern Cyprus, and the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Turkey in multiple decisions for violating the basic rights of Cypriots such as the right to life, the right to liberty and security, the right to respect for family life, the right to the protection of property and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment.

Cypriots want a unified island and continue to demonstrate their commitment toward a genuine reunification of Cyprus. However, no solution can realistically happen until the Turkish troops are withdrawn.

I strongly urge Turkey to show a commitment to international law and basic human rights by ending its military occupation and withdrawing its 43,000 troops so that Cyprus can begin to heal these wounds, peacefully integrate its people and economy and grow together as a nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ANIMAL
CRUELTY STATISTICS 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 bipartisan "Animal

Cruelty Statistics Act of 2008" along with Representatives GALLEGLY, NADLER, VAN HOLLEN and MORAN. This bill will direct the Attorney General to make changes to existing crime data bases so that data on animal cruelty crimes will be collected and made publicly available. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Animal cruelty crimes exist on the books in the vast majority of states and in the federal system. Yet there is no established system to meaningfully collect data on these crimes. The collection of data is important in order to assess the effectiveness of the animal cruelty laws, identify trends and problem areas, and allocate resources efficiently. Social Service studies also have shown a relationship between animal cruelty crimes and family violence. Many domestic violence organizations support this bill because they believe data collection on animal cruelty crimes will also help address the critical problem of domestic violence. This bill will serve these important purposes.

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

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221). This measure will provide a helping hand for those reeling from the mortgage crisis. Just as importantly, it will restore confidence in our largest mortgage backers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We have all seen how unscrupulous lending practices and skyrocketing interest rates associated with nontraditional mortgages have devastated families nationwide. Sadly, these families are often left with few options other than to see their homes foreclosed upon. In Rhode Island, foreclosures have increased by 20 percent in the last six months, and it is our most vulnerable communities that have been disproportionately affected.

Fortunately, today we are considering a package that will stem the tide of foreclosures by authorizing \$300 billion in loan guarantees to establish HOPE for homeowners, a voluntary program administered by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to help at-risk borrowers refinance into viable mortgages. I want to emphasize that this assistance is not a bail-out. On the contrary, the program will require lenders and mortgage investors to take significant losses in the form of a reduced loan principal, and borrowers must agree to share any profit from the resale of a refinanced home with the federal government. Furthermore, only primary residences will be eligible, not investment properties, vacation homes or speculators' purchases.

In addition, this package will provide \$3.92 billion in Community Development Block Grants for local governments to purchase abandoned and foreclosed properties—a provision that is fully paid for. I am glad the President has finally lifted his misguided veto threat

over this provision and will not stand in the way of local governments attempting to reduce the number of vacant properties in their communities and invest in affordable housing.

This legislation will also revitalize the FHA, which was established to provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers. The lack of affordable housing has long plagued many communities throughout America, and the problem is particularly acute in high cost areas like Rhode Island. Through our efforts today, the FHA will be able to better assist America's working families by offering loans at affordable rates with fair terms. This legislation will also allow the FHA to raise loan limits in high cost areas and to offer zero- and low-down-payment loan options for borrowers that can afford mortgage payments, but lack the resources required for a down payment. I also strongly support this bill's creation of a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which will construct, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million housing units over the next ten years.

Above all, this measure will help safeguard the interests of the American taxpayer and ensure that our nation's largest mortgage-backers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, remain strong. I'm pleased that H.R. 3221 will create a new independent agency—the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA—to regulate Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac currently back nearly half of our nation's mortgages, and the FHFA will ensure both entities remain financially strong. The creation of a strong independent regulator for our Government Sponsored Enterprises is long overdue. Four years ago I shared Alan Greenspan's concerns that the GSE's were involved in risky investments, saying on the House Floor: "It appears as though the increased risk that GSE's have been taking on is not related to their primary operation of purchasing affordable housing loans in the secondary market. Rather, much of their risk comes from derivative investments in an effort to maximize profits for shareholders. As we learned from Enron, complex derivative schemes may boost profits in the short-term, but the long-run risks can be too difficult to manage." While I regret that it took far too long for this problem to be taken seriously, I believe we are taking the proper action today.

This measure will also provide temporary, emergency authority through the end of 2009 to the Treasury Department to purchase stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to provide stability to our financial markets, prevent disruptions in the availability of mortgage finances, and protect taxpayers. While many, including the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, predict this authority may never be used, it is necessary to ensure a last-resort federal guarantee for our largest mortgage backers.

The American Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act also includes several key tax incentives designed to spur home buying and put money back in the hands of home owners. This legislation creates a \$7,500 credit for first-time homebuyers, designed to serve as an interest-free loan to be paid back after fifteen years. H.R. 3221 will also provide taxpayers that claim the standard deduction with an additional property tax deduction of up to \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for joint filers.

Finally, the bill before us will combat unscrupulous lending practices and increase trans-

parency by establishing a nationwide loan originator licensing and registration system that will set minimum standards for licensing and substantially improve oversight of mortgage brokers and loan officers. Additionally, it improves disclosure requirements to help ensure that borrowers fully understand their mortgage loan terms.

This legislation is an important and common-sense response to the housing crisis and will help stabilize families and our economy. I thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 520 and 521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 520 and "yea" on rollcall No. 521.

H.R. 6545, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, rollcall No. 520—"Yea."

H.R. 6545, To Table the Motion to Reconsider, rollcall No. 521—"Yea."

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE HERTZKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Winnebago Industries Chief Executive Bruce Hertzke, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his company and employees.

For over 36 years, Bruce dedicated his time and talents to Winnebago Industries. A native of Lakota, Iowa, Bruce graduated with an associate degree in accounting and business management from Iowa Lakes Community College. He began as a line worker at Winnebago in 1971, and for the past 10 years, he served as the chief executive and chairman of one of the industry's largest and most successful RV manufacturing firms. With his many years of service to the company, Bruce provided a wealth of knowledge and experience to the RV industry. Bruce leaves Winnebago Industries, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary on February 12, 2008, in strong financial standing, providing a source of economic strength and security for the surrounding community.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bruce Hertzke for his service to Winnebago Industries and the employees he served. I consider it an honor to represent Bruce in Congress, and I wish him and his wife, Jan, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT BRIAN STEVEN LEON GUERRERO, U.S. ARMY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of one of Guam's fallen sons, Army National Guardsman Sergeant Brian Steven Leon Guerrero. SGT Leon Guerrero, 34, from the village of Tamuning, was assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry. He was killed in the line of duty on July 10, 2008 during a deployment in Babo Kehyl, Afghanistan when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. SGT Leon Guerrero's passing marks the 27 death of a son from Micronesia fighting the War on Terror.

SGT Leon Guerrero was born on October 12, 1973. He was known as a committed family man, heading a household of 4 children and 2 step children. Fellow citizen soldiers will remember SGT Guerrero for his undying commitment to his country and to Guam. SGT Leon Guerrero was a proud member of the United States Army and the Guam National Guard. His dedication to our nation and our way of life was embodied by his desire to continue serving in the Army after 2 tours in the Horn of Africa. SGT Leon Guerrero was deployed to Afghanistan at the time of this passing. In the true spirit of a citizen soldier, SGT Leon Guerrero answered the repeated call to duty. During SGT Leon Guerrero's time serving our Nation, his fellow citizen soldiers recall his love of music and his expertise in playing the ukulele. He loved his family and friends and he will be remembered as a proud father and husband, and a dedicated soldier.

I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to his wife, Emely, their children Karl, Brian, Karian, and Jude, his stepchildren Julian and Maely, his parents, Mr. Pedro DLG, Ms. Rosita Pangelinan and Mr. Gil Lujan, and to the many family and friends that have joined together to honor his life.

God bless the Leon Guerrero Family, God bless our uniformed men and women protecting our freedoms, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, today, I joined Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY and my colleagues from New York in introducing a revised version of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Working closely with the AFL-CIO, the City of New York, the local community, the House Leadership, and the Committees of jurisdiction we have revised the bill to reduce the overall cost of the bill while ensuring that it will provide a comprehensive, long term solution to problems faced by first responders, area residents, workers, students, and others in the