

the Scoutmaster role, I felt I was taking responsibility for a living breathing organism.

Among Michael's many other accomplishments, he earned Eagle Scout honors at the age of thirteen. He earned a Select Student in Science and Math Degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He went on to earn a master's degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas. Michael was also a three time recipient of The Presidents Volunteer Service Award (2005, 2006, 2007), winner of the 2006 McKesson Corporation Neil Harlan community service award.

His favorite people were his sons, Charles Patrick Rambo and Aaron Michael Rambo, and his wife, Mary Margaret Jameson Rambo. Michael loved to visit the Grand Canyon where he hiked, rafted, and photographed its splendor on multiple occasions. His greatest desire was to travel in space. On May 31, 2008, a photograph of Michael was carried in the flight book of mission specialist Ronald J. Garan aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* on mission STS-124.

Michael Rambo selflessly served the community, loved his family and friends, and enjoyed life to the fullest. He was a role model of superior citizenship who made a tremendous impact on countless lives.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE GARY  
EDENHOFER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the accomplishments of Detective Gary Edenhofer of the Cheektowaga Police Department.

Detective Edenhofer began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer on the midnight shift. He is now retiring as a detective after 31 years with the force.

Throughout his career Gary has worked on several high-profile cases including robberies and homicides. The Western New York community is greatly appreciative for the increased security Detective Edenhofer has offered them.

Gary Edenhofer leaves behind a great legacy, as his career is marked by several high-lights. In 1989 he was recognized by the Town Board for arresting suspects who had burglarized a gun store. He also received commendations in 2005 for his work investigating the abduction of a man left locked in a car trunk.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to honor Detective Edenhofer's career with the Cheektowaga Police Department, and I ask you to join me in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

FLIGHT 458

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, flying the friendly skies seems to be increasingly out of reach

for most travelers. I, like many other Americans, am a frequent flyer and have been fortunate enough to have always arrived at my destination safely. Because of the quick action of pilots Captain David Skidmore, 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. and the crew of Continental flight 458 on July 22, 2008 this statement still holds true. Captain David Skidmore, has worked for Continental Airlines for seven years and recently completed his Captain's training in December of 2007. 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. has been with Continental since May 2008.

When our plane suddenly lost altitude and cabin pressure on Tuesday afternoon, the pilots regained control of the aircraft without hesitation. As I, along with the 117 other people, including 6 other members of Congress, aboard the D.C.-bound flight from Houston, TX put on our oxygen masks we imagined the possibilities. While the plane took a steep descent at rapid speed, Captain David Skidmore and 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. remained calm under the pressure.

Although faced with a possibly dire situation, the pilots were able to safely make an emergency landing in New Orleans. We landed with the fire trucks lining the runway—just like in the movies. From the time when our flight began experiencing difficulties to when we were on the ground 20 minutes later, the pilots and crew flawlessly executed their emergency procedures. Continental Airlines made travel arrangements for all 117 passengers and put us on three different flights to D.C. We arrived in Washington about six hours later. The members of Congress did miss votes however. Ironically, one bill was to upgrade aviation safety. The bill passed unanimously without the missing seven members of Congress. No doubt, if present I would have voted yes on this bill H.R. 6493.

The pilot's combined experience, along with the flight crew's quick action, is truly commendable. I am fortunate, as a passenger, to have been in the care of such capable pilot's as Captain David Skidmore, and 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE REVITALIZATION  
OF YOUNGSVILLE (ROY) ORGANIZATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Revitalization of Youngsville (ROY) organization and their extraordinary efforts to promote energy conservation in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

In response to the rising food and energy costs, the members of ROY started an innovative project in their community called "Night Out/Lights Out." Starting June 1st, members have been asking residents to turn off all of their lights, televisions, computers and other electrical appliances from 7 to 9 p.m. every Sunday during the summer in an effort to cut electric costs and promote awareness of rising electric and fuel prices. The secondary purpose of the event is to encourage residents to go outside and socialize with their neighbors.

This simple, yet innovative solution to the looming energy crisis is a great example of

how every American can do his or her part to conserve energy. In addition to helping local citizens reduce their energy consumption, this program has revived a deep sense of community among the residents of Youngsville.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the members of ROY on their successes thus far and encourage them to continue their efforts to promote energy conservation and awareness.

THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL AND  
HEALTH EDUCATION FOR OUR  
NATION'S CHILDREN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for his continued commitment to comprehensive education and ensuring that all children have access to the resources that will help them become healthy and productive adults. I would also like to thank my friends Congressman RON KIND and Congressman ZACH WAMP for their persistence in encouraging healthier lifestyles and choices for our nation's youth.

The problem of childhood obesity is well-documented, and we are all familiar with the statistics: 32 percent of the nation's children are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that the figure will exceed 20 percent by 2010. "Adult onset" diabetes has become a misnomer: incidence of type II has doubled in youth. As computers, cell phones, video game systems, and other types of technology become more prevalent in America's homes, children are redefining "recreation" away from physical activity and toward sedentary activities.

Responses to this epidemic abound, and they need to be supported and enhanced. Youth need more regular physical activity, parents must make healthier decisions regarding family diet, exposure to technology must be monitored and regulated, and nutrition education must be a component of elementary and middle school curricula.

At the same time, however, I believe if we are to combat this problem effectively we must also understand and address the causes of the problem. One of the causes that particularly distresses me, and one that receives relatively little attention, is the aggressive and predatory marketing of food and beverages to children and adolescents.

In 2006 the Institute of Medicine reported that it is estimated that more than \$10 billion annually is spent marketing food and beverages to youth; the vast majority of that money is spent marketing items with marginal or no nutritive value. Do they get a bang for the buck? Food and beverage sales to children and youth exceed \$27 billion annually. They wouldn't do it if it didn't work.

While television remains the most popular medium for marketing, food and beverage companies have been industrious, to say the least, in creating new means to market their products and create branding opportunities. Product placement in movies, video games, music videos, and even news broadcasts ensure exposure to brands and products despite

best efforts to avoid commercials and print advertisements. Banner and pop-up advertisements on the internet intrude on children's surfing routinely, despite the best software protections. Sponsorship at school sporting events, advertisements in school newspapers and in prepackaged media, and snacks in vending machines ensure that children are exposed to products and brands throughout the school day. We are fast approaching the day, if we aren't there already, when children find respite from food and beverage marketing only as they close their eyes to sleep.

This is not harmless advertising. Food and beverage marketing uses the best research available about brain development to ensure that their products are exposed to minds not yet fully developed. Again the Institute of Medicine reports that research tells us that humans develop consumption motives and values at an early age. In other words, developing brand allegiances early in life is profitable. The report also tells us that children have widely varied abilities to separate factual information from persuasive content and those abilities develop at different ages. In other words, it is easy to convince children that a product is healthy.

I firmly believe that if we are to help our children cultivate healthier lifestyle habits and make better nutrition choices, we must protect them from marketing practices whose primary function is to encourage increased consumption of unhealthy products. Any policy response to the youth obesity epidemic must include concrete ways to regulate the exposure of children and adolescents to food and beverage marketing.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the vote on this resolution (H. Con. Res. 398), despite my best efforts to reach the House floor in time to do so.

Had those efforts been successful, I would have voted "no," because I think we should not adjourn or recess this week until completing action on legislation to revise our national energy policies—something that has not yet occurred.

I left on an early flight out of Colorado this morning in an effort to reach the House in time for that vote. My flight landed just as the vote began.

As soon as I got in the car, I called the cloakroom to advise that I was en route, and asked that the vote be held open until I arrived. I was no more than 10 minutes from the Capitol, and I was aware the vote was being held open already—as the first vote of the day, apparently in an effort to give Members additional time to arrive and cast their votes.

However, the vote was completed as I entered the Capitol. I regret that my request that the vote be held open was not honored and that I was not able to cast my vote even though I was only seconds short of being able to do so.

#### HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this legislation. Simply put, this package is urgently needed to help our nation address the current foreclosure crisis and its impacts on the world financial markets.

I will limit my remarks to two parts of the current package that I was most active on: modernization of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and \$4 billion in CDBG funding for states and localities to purchase, rehabilitate, and resell or rent out abandoned and foreclosed homes.

The modernization of the FHA has long been a priority of mine because in recent years FHA had become obsolete in many parts of the country, due to its low loan limits (\$362,790), outdated rules, and slow bureaucracy. I saw too many low-income homebuyers in California with little choice but to turn to the subprime mortgage market for assistance.

This Congress, I introduced H.R. 1852, "the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007" to give FHA the tools and resources to allow it to assist more low-income homebuyers. H.R. 1852 passed the House on September 18, 2007 on a bipartisan vote of 348–72, and again on May 8th of this year as part of H.R. 3221, the first go-round on this housing rescue package.

Including FHA modernization in the amendment before the House today is essential because FHA is the only national agency with the capacity and expertise to assist the nation's homeowners on a large scale.

Another part of the package that deserves support is funding for states, counties, and cities to stabilize neighborhoods devastated by foreclosures. According to Realty Trac, banks repossessed over 71,000 properties in June, an astounding 171 percent more than one year ago. This means that 770,000 properties nationwide are now in "real estate owned" or REO status, an increase of 330,000 since the end of 2007.

These abandoned and foreclosed properties drag down the value of homes still occupied by working families, and contribute to a cascade effect whereby plummeting home prices erode the tax base that state and local governments have to work with, while straining their police, fire, code enforcement, and other resources.

States and most local governments must balance their budgets each year, and as a result, at least 20 states have already made budget cuts due largely to revenue losses resulting from the subprime crisis. Even so, many hard-pressed states and cities are dedicating their own limited resources to purchasing foreclosed properties to stabilize neighborhoods.

But they are overwhelmed by the scale of the problem. For this reason, the National Governors Association, the Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and nearly every other local government trade association support Federal neighborhood stabilization assistance.

This is why I introduced H.R. 5818, "the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008,"

which passed the House on May 8th of this year. Although the amendment before us provides less funding than H.R. 5818—\$4 billion as compared to \$15 billion and distributes funds differently, I believe that the Senate's language, which we are considering today, is basically a sound approach. With time being of the essence, finalizing this bill is more important than playing more ping-pong with the Senate.

I am compelled to respond to criticisms raised by the Administration about the CDBG funding in H.R. 3221: (1) that it is a bailout for lenders and investors, and (2) that it incentivizes foreclosures over loan workouts for distressed borrowers. This is simply not so.

First, the many local officials and community-based nonprofits my Subcommittee has heard from are in no mood to give sweetheart deals to the financial institutions who own these properties—many of whom they are actually suing over their subprime and predatory lending practices during the boom years.

Second, the facts of the current housing market just don't bear out the Administration's claims. Lenders spend \$50,000 to \$60,000 up front in a foreclosure, or on average, 25 percent or more of the value of the loan. It is unlikely that a lender would refuse to work out a loan with a borrower—thereby saving a substantial amount in foreclosure related costs—and instead rush to foreclosure on the chance that a community-based buyer might be willing to purchase the property at 30 to 50 cents on the dollar, which is what foreclosed properties are going for upon resale these days.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for ensuring that 15 percent of housing counseling funds authorized by H.R. 3221 are directed to organizations—like the National Urban League—that target counseling services to low-income and minority homeowners and neighborhoods.

African-American and minority neighborhoods were disproportionately targeted for subprime loans. It is only appropriate that some of portion of the housing counseling funds are targeted to these communities, lest minority communities and homeowners once again fall through the cracks.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

#### HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MARTHA FLORES

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I humbly honor a dear friend and a strong community activist, Martha Flores, who has done so much to improve our South Florida area and who relentlessly promotes the cause of human rights. Miami-Dade County has honored Martha by naming the segment of 8th Street and SW 42 Ave after her. This is a testament to her dedication and service to our community. After leaving her native Cuba to escape Fidel Castro's communist regime, she established deep roots in Miami. She has been the producer and host of a nightly radio program, "La Noche y Usted (The Night and You)," which has earned the greatest audience of all nightly Spanish talk shows in South Florida.