

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.

In recognition of her indelible impact on the community, Martha Flores was the first woman enshrined in the "Calle Ocho Walk of Fame." Throughout her distinguished career, she has received many accolades, but this has not deterred her from her main objective: to humbly serve her community. One of her first radio shows, "La Voz de la Mujer (the Voice of a Woman)," was the first Spanish radio program that raised issues concerning the plight of Cuban exiles. She never forgot her homeland and for nearly 50 years now she has been at the forefront, while working alongside numerous community organizations, of bringing to light the repression of Castro's Cuba.

Martha Flores has selflessly given of her time and resources to volunteer for many humanitarian causes including the League Against Cancer and League Against Blindness. In addition, she also helped St. Jude Children's Research Hospital raise much needed funds. She has been instrumental in bringing public attention and awareness to the needs of the elderly and disabled adults through her radio program and volunteerism. She will also be the first ever recipient of the Claude Pepper Memorial Award in the Media category.

Martha has also made her radio show available to those who work on behalf of a free and independent Cuba, the sacred land of her birth. She sends a nightly message of hope and solidarity to her multitude of fans, many from the oppressed island nation.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Martha Flores for her recent honor as well as for all the service and activism she has undertaken. South Florida is honored to have her and the example she has given all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAD WATSON'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Cpl Chad Michael Watson who lost a leg in an improvised explosive device attack. While on patrol in the Anbar province in Iraq on November 29, 2006, Chad's vehicle came under attack and he was severely wounded and later lost his right leg.

The son of Mike and Gina Watson, Chad was born in Mount Zion, Illinois on February 8, 1983. He attended Mount Zion High School graduating in 2004. Chad joined the Marine Corps May 17, 2004 and was trained as an infantryman. Following his initial training he deployed to Iraq with Charlie Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, and 24th Marines where he served until his injury.

During the twenty months of recovery, Chad maintained a positive and even uplifting attitude which reflected well among those fellow marines and soldiers passing through the recovery process at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Albert Caswell of the U.S. Capitol Guide Service, a friend of his, penned the following poem as a fitting tribute to Chad for his sacrifice and unrelenting commitment to his long and enduring recovery.

BREAKING CHAD. . .

Breaking Bad!

Breaking Chad! He's Good, but he's the good king of Bad. . .

A Marine's Marine, one Fine Fighting Machine! The kind of son, you wish you had!

First in boot camp. . .

First in his class in military school . . . training with his brothers in arms, as number one he'd rule. . .

Wherever hearts of courage roam, men like Chad have come home with but their hearts of heroism full. . .

A Hero who went off to war. . .

Who lost a leg, but came back with so much more!

With his courage full, over our hearts he rules . . . as he takes us all to school . . . is that not what heaven is for?

Upon, battlefields of honor seen!

Running towards death, as he was strong . . . fast and lean . . . a real bad fighting machine! Upon the scene!

The kind of guy you'd fight for and not ask why . . . ready to die for you and his United States Marines!

For in our Country Tis of Thee. . .

There have been many heroes such as these who heard the call . . . who did not pause, as did he!

Who are but rough & ready, while in the face of hell were ever steady . . . for their colors did not run, you see!

And now his new fight. . .

To rebuild his life, with his fine and future wife . . . teaching us all what is right!

'Oh what a heck of a sight, bringing tears to eyes . . . as he does not ask why . . . bringing to our world his light!

SORRY!

Is a word, from him . . . you shall never hear! For he is man of courage and convictions so very clear!

Which will teach us, which will reach us . . . into our souls so beseech us here!

In our lives, and in our times. . .

What have we've so done, which so survives . . . which will live on long after we have died?

For it's all about what we've said and done, and for whom we've so bled. . . Which tells the world, Who Am I!

For in That Moment of Truth. . .

How will you break? What is your truth? All in your actions you take, as so lies the proof!

You may stand, or you may run! You may fade, or shine like the morning sun! In heroic truth!

How will you break?

What steps will you take? What hearts will you break? While all in your actions state. . .

God is Good, and God is Great . . . all in heroes as Chad he creates!

Uraaaahh Jar head. . .

You have fought and you have bled . . . Breaking Bad . . . all in what your fine heart has said!

What a hero is, and what you must have to break great and break bad in the fight ahead. . .

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus I would like to honor the 60th anniversary of the

integration of the United States Armed Forces, which began on July 26, 1948. When talking about an issue that happened in the past, we tend to think of it as something that happened overnight or that it was easy. Integrating the military was not at all easy, but it was a critical step to moving our nation forward in terms of civil rights.

President Harry S Truman initiated the effort to integrate the Armed Forces at the request of many black civil rights leaders. Not too many people expected the President to embrace integration within the military. Truman was born in Missouri, and his opinion on the issue was that of any average Missourian of his time. However, as he learned about the atrocities that were being committed against blacks, especially against those that had served in World War II, he became much more committed to civil rights issues and integrating the military. Indeed, President Truman outlined in his administration's policies key civil rights efforts, including forming agencies to address voting rights and fair employment. The most progressive of his actions was the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces, which was proposed by the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

Support, however, did not come readily from Congress which was uninterested in civil rights issues. Indeed, the civil rights of Truman's priorities drew widespread criticism from Southern Democrats. Members of the military also were skeptical, with particular concern about legislation that would end racism overnight rather than more gradually. The argument offered by opponents was that, if blacks were allowed to be integrated into the Armed Forces, many whites would not want to join. Proponents of integration countered that the Federal government must take a leadership role in integrating; if Congress did not integrate Federal jobs, the private sector would definitely avoid doing so. To achieve advances in civil rights, Truman appointed The President's Committee on Civil Rights, which was charged to determine how to strengthen and improve Federal, State, and local laws to safeguard civil rights. The Committee identified multiple policies for Congressional action; however, Truman asserted that civil rights in the services fell under executive purview. On July 26, 1948, Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which mandated equal treatment and opportunity for black members in the Armed Forces. In the end, it was through the commitment and persistence of various leaders that we have an integrated military.

The world would be a different place today if such proposals were not made against the status quo. The integration of the Armed Forces served as an instrument of social change. As we see from the civil rights movement, sometimes the best choices require going against the majority. So, tip my hat to the many leaders who made the integration of the military a reality, and I celebrate this integration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its enactment.