

aerospace engineers. I would not be surprised if future breakthroughs in space technology came from alumni of the United Space School program. It is therefore my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the United Space School program on the occasion of the United Space School Day. I also extend my thanks to NASA, the Johnson Space Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, East Texas AHEC, and all the volunteers who help make the United Space School program possible.

# H.R. 5531 NEXT GENERATION RADIATION SCREENING ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5531, the Next Generation Screening Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this critical homeland security bill.

I introduced H.R. 5531 on March 5, 2008, to enhance the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security's radiation detection capabilities. Over the past several years, the Department of Homeland Security has made significant progress in deploying radiation detectors at our Nation's ports of entry. While this capability provides a critical layer in our defense against radiological and nuclear terrorism, Customs officials are overburdened by alarms due to radioactive material that is not a threat, such as medical therapeutics, cat litter, and fertilizer.

To reduce this burden on Customs officials, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office within the Department of Homeland Security, initiated an aggressive research program to develop, test, evaluate, and deploy the next generation of radiation detection technology. This technology, known as the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, or ASP, is capable of identifying, as well as detecting, radioactive material.

Preliminary results from actual field tests of the ASP systems show a reduction in nuisance alarms by a factor of 20. This means that ports such as the Port of Long Beach in California could reduce the number of radiological alarms that require secondary inspection from 500 per day to 20 per day—resulting in an enormous savings in time and resources for Customs officials.

Although technical progress has been made, the ASP system has not yet been deployed. There have been a series of delays with the ASP program due to miscommunication or misunderstanding between the government agencies involved, the stakeholders, and additional certification requirements established by the Congress.

Therefore, this bill addresses system capability, which appears to be the largest source of miscommunication between the agency preparing the ASP—the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office—and the agency responsible for using the ASP in the field—Customs and Border Protection.

Specifically this legislation directs the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to enter into a memorandum of un-

derstanding regarding the minimum standards of operational functionality in order to deploy ASP systems. This is not in any way an attempt to rush development of a system, but merely a requirement to spell out in plain English what type of system is required by those who will be operating that system in the field.

This legislation also clarifies a provision in title IV of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110–161, which requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress certifying that “a significant increase in operational effectiveness will be achieved” with the ASP system before “funds appropriated under this heading shall be obligated for full-scale procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors” and requires that “the Secretary shall submit separate and distinct certifications prior to the procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors for primary and secondary deployment that address the unique requirements for operational effectiveness of each type of deployment.”

H.R. 5531 requires the Secretary to develop a quantitative definition of “significant increase in operational effectiveness” and develop appropriate metrics for measuring this effectiveness.

In addition to authorizing the ASP program, this bill also authorizes the Securing the Cities Initiative, which is a successful program that enhances security in the New York City metropolitan region. Funding for the Securing the Cities Initiative is used to deploy next generation radiation detection technology to detect the illicit transportation of nuclear and radiological material in urban areas. The Securing the Cities Initiative has fostered unprecedented collaboration and coordination among its Federal, state, and local partners and has enhanced the security of the New York Metropolitan region. H.R. 5531 authorizes \$40 million for this vital program, which is the same amount appropriated in Fiscal Year 2008, to ensure its continuation in Fiscal Year 2009.

The full Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 5531 by unanimous voice vote on June 26, 2008. I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this bill.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA.

Bill Number: HR. 6599: Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Act.

Account: Department of Defense; Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Description of Request: Provide \$2 million in P-341 (unspecified minor military construction) funds pursuant to Title 10 US Code 2805, to construct a new 80-bed barracks at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site,

Port Clinton, OH. The request will increase the readiness of our servicemen and women in the Ohio National Guard and help them better prepare for the challenges they face both at home and abroad.

## PERSONAL EMPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the following legislative measure on July 15, 2008. If I were present for the roll call vote, I would have voted Yea on the following:

Roll No. 491, July 15, 2008: On Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 6331, To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend expiring provisions under the Medicare Program, to improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural areas, including pharmacy access, and for other purposes.

## TRIBUTE TO MARK COVERT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Covert who, on July 23rd, harked the 40th anniversary of an unparalleled running streak. Covert, a running coach and former elite athlete, has run at least one mile every day since July 23rd 1968. Overall, he has run 140,045 miles—and counting—since the streak began. The United States Running Streak Association lists Mark Covert as the current U.S. leader for the longest continuous streak.

Although he currently lives in Lancaster, California, where he coaches the Antelope Valley College cross country and track teams, Covert's streak is actually a significant part of Oregon history. One of the most important “daily runs” of the streak came in 1972, when Covert ran in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials at the University of Oregon, in Eugene. Even though he just missed making the team, he still made history by being the first athlete to cross a finish line wearing an unusual pair of shoes with rubber soles that were made on a waffle iron.

These so-called “moon shoes” were invented in the kitchen of an enterprising entrepreneur named Bill Bowerman. Bowerman, along with his partner Phil Knight, based an entire company and, indeed, an entire fitness movement, on these revolutionary shoes. The company, of course, is Nike, and Covert was one of the first employees in the early 1970s. He has stayed true to the legacy by running 117,028 miles in Nikes over the years.

The partnership continued at this year's Olympic Track and Field Trials—held, once again, at the University of Oregon's historic Hayward Field—where Nike sold T-shirts honoring two different athletes—legendary Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine and, you guessed it, Mark Covert.

As an important part of the U.S. running movement in its early years, Mark Covert's place in history was already secure. Now, through his current unmatched running streak, he continues to inspire and motivate thousands of runners around the country and around the world. I'd like to thank him for his commitment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOEY QUINTO

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Joey Quinto, publisher of the California Journal for Filipino Americans.

Mr. Quinto was born and educated in the Philippines, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from San Beda College in Manila, Philippines. He also graduated from the Minority Business Executive Programs of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire. Mr. Quinto now resides with his wife Carlyn and daughter Carlette in Palos Verdes, California.

Mr. Quinto's contributions to the advancement of the API community are many. He began his professional career in California in 1984 as a mortgage banker. As a publisher, his weekly newspaper advances the interests of the API community and appropriately addresses local, consumer and business news, and community events. He is also a member of several community organizations. These include the Los Angeles Minority Business Opportunity Committee and The Greenlining Coalition.

His contributions have been widely recognized. Mr. Quinto is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Journalism during the Fourth Annual Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Awards in celebration of the Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. This award recognizes prominent APIs that have excelled in bringing pertinent news to the API community. He previously was listed among the Star Suppliers of the Year of the Southern California Regional Purchasing Council in 1999, received the Minority Media Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1997, and has also earned a leadership award from the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce based in Los Angeles.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Joey Quinto for his years of service to the API community. Through his tireless work effort he has demonstrated that the American dream is possible.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL INTERNET  
SAFETY MONTH

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1260, a resolution in support of the goals and ideals of "National Internet

Safety Month". This is an issue I have personally been working on for a number of years through the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Through the Subcommittee's investigation, we've been able to influence significant changes in the industry, including better filtering and reporting efforts among Internet Service Providers, social networking sites, and other content providers.

We have also discovered a number of alarming statistics, for example:

One in five children report receiving a sexual solicitation over the Internet, more than 3.5 million pornographic images of American children are in circulation on the Internet, and the sale of these images over the Internet represents a billion dollar industry.

The anonymity provided by the Internet to those that seek to exploit and harm children and the lightning pace data is transmitted provides a Congress with significant policy challenges.

While we've made some progress in the last few years, I feel that we've only begun to address the scope of this problem.

By recognizing National Internet Safety Month, we remind ourselves how important it is for Congress to remain committed and vigilant to ensure that the Internet is a safe place for children.

VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS  
CLAIMS MODERNIZATION ACT OF  
2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5892, The Veterans Disability Benefits Claims Modernization Act of 2008. This legislation will help to address difficulties that our veterans face in accessing needed health care records and medical compensation. I want to thank Chairman JOHN HALL of New York for his leadership on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and for sponsoring this legislation.

I support the bill's intent to streamline the current VA claims process faced by our nation's 24,000,000 veterans. Studies show that the average processing time for veterans' claims has increased from 177 days to 183 days in one year alone. Moreover, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) predicts that the number of claims will surpass 1,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2008. H.R. 5892 will provide incentives for the Veteran's Association to modernize their processing protocol by utilizing existing information technology in the processing of claims. These incentives will provide veterans with a more user-friendly means of filing claims and more importantly a faster response time with claims requests.

In particular, our veterans on Guam face the additional challenge of having to file their claims through the Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii. Over 20 percent of the backlogged cases in Honolulu are cases from Guam. Improved information technology systems will help facilitate the processing of claims on Guam. Moreover, I will continue to

work with Chairman HALL and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enhance services provided by the VA Office on Guam. Improvements in the claims processing system along with a greater VA presence on Guam will greatly improve the current situation for our island's veterans.

H.R. 5892 will also address the Department of Veterans Affairs' standard for adjudicating a veterans level of disability. The VA currently employs the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD), a schedule first commissioned during the First World War. The VASRD was last revised in 1945 and has yet to include contemporary medical practices and procedures. The legislation also requires improvement training and assessment of training for VA caseworkers. In total, this legislation takes a major step forward in ensuring better quality of care and treatment for our nation's veterans.

Our veterans have sacrificed in service to our country, and it is our duty to provide them with the adequate support and service commensurate to their dedication. I would like to thank my colleague Chairman HALL for authorizing this bill and I urge passage of H.R. 5892.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent yesterday during rollcall votes 534, 535 and 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 534 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot program using mobile biometric identification tools to identify terrorists and other individuals who pose risks to border security; "yea" on rollcall 535 to require each federal agency to include a telephone number in its collection of information in order to assist people with filling out government forms; and "yea" on rollcall 536 to establish an ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN HONOR OF YASH PAUL SOI

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Yash Paul Soi, a devoted leader who has worked tirelessly to advance and promote Indian culture. Mr. Soi has been an exemplary spokesman and ambassador for the causes of India and its people in the United States.

Mr. Soi has committed himself to supporting the Asian-Indian community through the advancement of Indian cultural activities. He has been recognized as an Indian cultural icon and his Indian music radio program has been vastly influential. His work in bringing Indian issues to the media forefront presented him with the opportunity to interview Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, President Jimmy Carter, and many other distinguished world figures. Additionally, Mr. Soi has contributed to American society through his work to bring Indian arts to many of our Nation's most famous stages.