

I have a few concerns about the bill. First, I am concerned that the bill will require colleges and universities to comply with additional federal "red tape." I understand that Representative McKEON plans to offer an amendment to study the regulatory burden on colleges and universities and ways to reduce it.

Also, I have concerns about the college cost provisions. While the provisions have certainly improved over the past several years, I question whether the federal government should intervene in the way colleges and universities set their tuition, particularly at relatively low-cost community colleges. For example, it is my understanding that Grand Rapids Community College, located in my congressional district, may be subjected to the bill's requirements of the Quality Efficiency Task Force. Unfortunately, the bill fails to take into account state and local factors, such as last year's failed millage attempts, which, in turn, necessitated the tuition increases at this community college. It is situations like this that should be considered when reviewing attempts to control rising college costs.

Finally, I have concerns with the bill's maintenance of effort requirements for state funding. I appreciate Representative KILDEE and WALBERG's efforts to include a waiver for States facing difficult economic times, such as Michigan.

On balance, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act is a good bill, and I urge Members to support it.

PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007 EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 5104. However, I believe that passing a long-term extension of the Protect America Act is not the answer. Instead, we must update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in a way that will enhance our national security while at the same time protecting the privacy of United States citizens. As such, it is my hope that this extension will give us time to responsibly modernize the FISA law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in ensuring that these dual aims are accomplished.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANTONIO DIMORA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Antonio Dimora, a beloved father and doting grandfather, and to honor his commitment to his Northeast Ohio community.

Antonio was born in Sicily in 1932 and immigrated to the United States in 1950, settling in a succession of Cleveland area communities. He was an avid outdoorsman, worked

for Republic Steel and Buckeye Forge, and served as the Union Steward in the United Steelworkers of America. Later in life, Antonio devoted his time to volunteer work with the American Association of Retired Persons and Church of the Holy Angels in Bainbridge, Ohio.

Antonio's greatest joy in life was spending time with his wife, Mary Elizabeth; his four children, James, Ann Marie Miker, Theresa Agostino, and Diane Pieronek; and his nine grandchildren. He never forgot Italy, and enjoyed every opportunity to celebrate his Italian heritage.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Antonio Dimora, whose tireless work for the labor cause and deep affection for his family and community will be remembered by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Dimora family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PARADISE VALLEY POLICE CHIEF JOHN WINTERSTEEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Paradise Valley Police Chief John Wintersteen for the many years he has given to his community and to our country. Chief Wintersteen is retiring after thirteen years at the helm of his department, a span that has encompassed tremendous growth and innovation in the town's public safety programs. His tenure in Paradise Valley has earned him the respect and love of that community.

Chief Wintersteen's distinguished service began long before he joined the Paradise Valley Police Department. He served honorably for nearly 29 years in the United States Marine Corps, overseeing police and security operations at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Wintersteen was instrumental in overseeing the town's fire and emergency medical service transition from the private Rural/Metro Fire Department to Phoenix Fire Department. He was also involved in the expansion of the Police Department's photo-enforcement program—which was the first in the Nation—and the introduction of public-awareness programs.

Chief Wintersteen is just as dedicated to the community in his private life as he was while wearing a badge. He volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Sierra Club, American Red Cross and Special Olympics, among others.

I would like to wish Chief Wintersteen all the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. I am confident that Paradise Valley will continue to benefit from his knowledge, leadership and dedication to the community he calls home. I say congratulations on a job well done.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 12, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,804 days since the tragic judicial fiat called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,804

days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 12, 2008—12,804 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY
OF COMMERCE TO SELL OR EX-
CHANGE NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-
TION PROPERTY LOCATED IN
NORFOLK, VA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property to/with the city of Norfolk, Virginia.

Over the last decade, the city of Norfolk has experienced tremendous economic growth. Downtown Norfolk has reemerged as the urban center of the Hampton Roads region through revitalization and new commercial and residential development. For several decades, NOAA has been an important Federal partner in downtown Norfolk's development. NOAA's Atlantic Marine Operations Center and NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office are both located in downtown Norfolk.

The bill that I am introducing today, along with my colleague Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE, would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange a small piece of underutilized NOAA property located at 538 Front Street in Norfolk, consisting of 3.78 acres, to the city of Norfolk. This land sale would allow Norfolk to continue its tremendous economic growth by developing the land for commercial and residential purposes. At the same time, the bill clearly states that NOAA may only sell or exchange the property if the Secretary of Commerce determines that the conveyance would be in the best interest of the Federal government. The bill does not delineate or support any particular agreement or contract; the details of any future agreement between NOAA and the city of Norfolk would have to be worked out. This legislation would simply permit that process to get started. In addition, any sale or exchange would have to have little to no impact on Federal revenue or

the deficit. The bill requires that the property be sold at a value that is not less than the fair market value as determined by the Federal government. Furthermore, it authorizes NOAA to retain any proceeds from the sale or exchange.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this bill will be considered by the full House of Representatives soon. I believe this bipartisan, non-controversial legislation protects both the interests of the Federal government and the citizens of Norfolk. I urge my colleagues to support this measure when it comes before the full House.

TRIBUTE TO VADA SHEID

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and dear friend. I am proud to recognize one of Arkansas' greatest public servants Vada Sheid. Her recent death was a great loss for our community and our Nation.

Vada Sheid was the first woman to be elected to both the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas State Senate. Her career in public service, which also included positions in numerous county offices, boards, commissions and committees, spanned across five decades. Mrs. Sheid was instrumental in securing significant road improvements for north central Arkansas as well as the creation of Arkansas State University-Mountain Home.

Vada Webb was born on August 19, 1916, in Izard County. She grew up in Calico Rock and entered public service working at the Izard County welfare office when she was 19. Shortly after she married Carl Sheid in 1941 the couple moved to El Dorado and eventually settled in Mountain Home.

In 1958, Mrs. Sheid ran for Baxter County treasurer and lost. In 1960, she ran again, won, and served as treasurer through 1965. In 1966, she was elected to the State house of representatives and served four terms. She was only one of four women who served during the 1967–1968 term. In 1976, Mrs. Sheid was elected to the State senate and became the only woman to serve in both houses in Arkansas.

In 1987, Governor Bill Clinton appointed her to the State Police Commission. In 1992, after a resignation of the local State representative, Mrs. Sheid ran for office again and won, serving in the house again until 1995.

Her work to improve education and ASU Mountain Home earned her an honorary doctor of law degree from the college in 1998. Her dedication to serving the community is remembered by the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce's Vada Sheid Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community.

On behalf of Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Sheid's family and gratitude for the countless hours she spent serving others. She leaves a legacy of accomplishment in Arkansas as well as inspiring memories for all who knew her.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational experience for both the intern who works in a congressional office, and for the office who receives an intern from the program. The program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service to congressional offices for 2-month internships.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program began in 2000 and since its inception, I have been a proud participant. This year I welcomed a wonderful student-ambassador to my office, Stephanie Lyons, who has shared with us her experiences as a newcomer to Washington from the perspective of an Australian. Stephanie, who visits us from the University of Canberra, is a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. With a bachelor's degree in communication, specializing in public relations and political communication, Stephanie will this year commence her honors degree, drawing upon her experiences here in Washington as a research stimulus. Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests in the media and a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to science and the environment.

Over the past month, she has been an invaluable asset to this office. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

Stephanie is one of several outstanding Australian interns. This year, a record 13 students from across Australia were matched with congressional offices. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. The Uni-Capitol program gives its students practical experience and allows them to gain knowledge and understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government.

Including this current group, 81 Australian students will have interned in Washington since the program's inception 9 years ago. For creating the Uni-Washington program, credit must be given to its founder, Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate congressional staffer who has worked to foster the exchange of ideas and knowledge between the U.S. and Australia through his efforts with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to seek international connections by participating in this rewarding program. It is truly heartening to see how much this program has grown over the years, and I look forward to its continued success. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and,