

DC. As a result, I missed votes on September 11, 2008. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 585 approving the Journal; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 586 commemorating the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 587 restoring the Highway Trust Fund balance; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 588 motion to adjourn.

HONORING NEBRASKA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the men and women who served our country during World War II, and the national non-profit organization dedicated to helping World War II veterans visit the World War II Memorial here in Washington D.C.

I have had the honor of meeting with these veterans—in Nebraska and at the memorial built to thank them for their strength, bravery, and sacrifices.

It has been over 60 years since World War II ended with the surrender of the Japanese, bringing to the close a war in which 16 million American men and women served.

Less than five million are still with us.

This week, nearly 250 Nebraska World War II vets visited D.C. They came from Omaha, Scottsbluff, and towns in between. They came from small towns like Thedford and Nebraska's capital city, Lincoln.

I know their visit to Washington was a trip of a lifetime for each and every one of them, and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their service to our country.

I also want to thank the Heartland Honor Flight for their efforts to make this trip a reality. During the past four years, honor flights have transported more than 5,000 veterans to our nation's capital.

I'm proud to live in a country which honors our heroes.

2008 POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2008 National Observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In each conflict since the Revolution, brave Americans have found themselves prisoners of the enemy. Far from home and country, cut off from news of loved ones for months or even years, sometimes subjected to physical and mental abuse, these Americans held out the hope that they would one day see home again. Through the horrors of Andersonville and the Bataan Death March, American prisoners of war have endured the cruelest of humanity. Some did not survive to have their much awaited reunion with loved ones. All have earned our Nation's abiding respect and admiration for the sacrifices they made for our Nation.

It is my privilege to join this day with my colleagues in honoring the 2008 National Observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day. Let us never forget these great Americans and all that they have done for us.

HONORING CONNOR BLOSS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Bloss of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Bloss for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPACE COMMERCE ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Space Commerce Act of 2008." This legislation would modify the Technology Administration Act of 1998 and provide for the establishment of an Office of Space Commerce in the Department of Commerce. As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee with jurisdiction over commercial space activities, I am introducing this bill as a courtesy to the Department, which requested it.

While I think the legislation that I am introducing today requires review and potentially modification before it is ready to come back to this floor for further consideration, I believe that introducing the Department's proposed legislation will help us move forward in seeking the best ways to encourage the vitality of this growing industry. This bill will help stimulate discussion on what is the best approach to enhancing the development and competitive posture of America's commercial space sector. That discussion will help Congress craft the best path forward in addressing this important topic.

I feel quite passionate about the important role that the commercial space sector plays—and will continue to play in the coming years—in ensuring the sustained vitality of the U.S. economy and its competitiveness in world markets. My home State of Colorado is home to some of the Nation's leading commercial space companies and is serving as an incubator for more every year. I am proud of that fact, and I am proud of the companies that are

contributing so much to the nation's strength in civil, commercial, and military aerospace.

As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand the growing impact that the commercial space sector is having, both in enhancing the Nation's economic strength and improving the quality of life of all our citizens. Whether it is advancing U.S. geospatial applications, maximizing the benefits to be gained from U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities, or numerous other endeavors, America's space commerce sector is leading the way, and I want to do all I can to see that that continues to be the case.

That is why I believe it is important to fully examine how the Federal Government can best provide additional useful tools to help expand and develop the space commerce sector. We in Congress should do all we can to address space commerce policy issues and help encourage the growth of the U.S. commercial space sector. I look forward to hearing from all interested stakeholders as we move forward to fully examine this proposal.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2,000 committed and dedicated volunteers who advise, educate and inspire over 4,000 Boy Scouts in Western North Carolina.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, chartered by Congress in 1916, and organized in Western North Carolina as the Daniel Boone Council since 1920. The Boy Scouts of America strives to develop good traits of character in young people and to instill in them values of good citizenship. The Boy Scouts program is available to all youth regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic level.

The Daniel Boone Council of Western North Carolina serves 4,088 youth in 14 counties through 173 Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, and Explorer Posts.

The youth are supported by 2,000 dedicated volunteer leaders who recruit, raise funds, serve on the executive board and committees, and educate and inspire the youth of the program. The Scouting volunteers report that their involvement with the Boy Scouts has raised their environmental awareness, aided them in ethical and moral decision-making, and helped them become better parents and citizens. The benefits to the volunteers, however, are slight in comparison to the life altering experiences that their work provides to the Scouts.

The Boy Scouts of America has designated 2008 as the "Year of the Volunteer" to honor the volunteers who serve across the Nation. In Western North Carolina, the Daniel Boone Council has set apart September 13 as their special day to honor their volunteers through a Volunteer Recognition Banquet. It is my hope, however, that we continue to honor the tremendous contributions of the Daniel Boone

Council's 2000 volunteers throughout 2008 and for years and decades to come.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend these dedicated and committed volunteers. I am honored to be able to stand with the Daniel Boone Council in recognizing their hard work and service.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS BOOZER, COREY COGDELL, AND MATT EMMONS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons, three Alaskans who recently returned from competing in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. These three Alaskans, joined by their fellow athletes from across the country, traveled to Beijing, and represented the United States in an extraordinary manner. The U.S. Olympic team distinguished the United States from other nations by winning 110 medals, the most of any country. Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons each won medals, and boldly represented the United States in their specific competitions.

I truly believe that the importance of the contributions of these three talented Alaskan athletes to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor their great accomplishments. For this reason I am introducing the following resolution to honor these three athletes for their accomplishments and representation of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11th and Monday, September 15th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, and 591.

HONORING JOSEPH MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Moore of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Moore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING THE 37TH RYDER CUP TO KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome athletes, fans, and sponsors of the PGA Tour to the City of Louisville for the 37th Ryder Cup. The competition will take place at the Valhalla Golf Club September 16–21, 2008.

The Ryder Cup matches the 12 best American golf professionals against the best 12 from Europe. The competition will be seen by hundreds of millions of golf enthusiasts throughout the world.

In the spirit of Olympians, athlete participation is grounded in the prestige of representing their country rather than prize money. I would like to make special note of two fellow Kentuckians, Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes, joining the American team. Their competitive spirit and good sportsmanship will make our state and country proud.

I applaud the PGA of America, the PGA Tour, and First Tee for the charitable contributions they will generate through this event. The Ryder Cup will directly raise over \$780,000 in funds for charity. An additional \$2.6 million will be donated on behalf of the U.S. Ryder Cup captain and team.

It is my great privilege to recognize the athletes, sponsors, and hosts of the 37th Ryder Cup for their collective contributions to charity and international goodwill through this special event.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, important legislation that improves and strengthens the Federal programs that assist foster care and adoption assistance programs.

Under current law, States are reimbursed by the Federal Government for eligible foster care or adoption assistance programs through Title IV–E of the Social Security Act. Unfortunately, these very same services are not directly reimbursed when provided by an American Indian tribe. This was not a deliberate adoption

policy decision, but instead a drafting error that has meant that some tribes have been left without the Federal resources they need to support services for these priceless children.

My bill would provide parity to Native American children living on tribal land by allowing Indian tribes to have the same direct access to Federal funding for foster care and adoption services that States currently receive via Title IV–E. This legislation improves the Native American child welfare system by requiring tribal adoption and foster care programs to meet the same requirements that are required of States to ensure the safety of children placed in tribal foster care programs, while entrusting the establishment and maintenance of these programs to tribes.

The critical importance of this legislation was driven home to me when I met recently with the Mitzel family from West Fargo, ND. They have served as foster parents for 13 children throughout the years and are now adopted parents for a sibling group of five precious Native American children who were scattered from one another in the foster care system. For their persistent efforts to reunite this sibling group, I nominated the Mitzels this year for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels in Adoption Award.

I am deeply grateful for the commitment of tribal leaders to make certain that these children were united and raised as a family even though in this particular case it means that these children will be raised off of the reservation. Meeting these children powerfully drove home to me just how important it is that all of our children, including American Indian children receiving services from a tribe, have the same level of support.

This compromise bill with the Senate puts tribal adoption and foster care one step closer to being on equal footing with States and gives tribes the ability to provide their children with the culturally appropriate care they deserve. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will quickly pass the Senate and be signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to ensure that all children in foster care get the services, education and healthcare that they need.

RECOGNIZING THE YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York County Economic Development Corporation, YCEDC, for providing economic development leadership to the York community for 50 years.

YCEDC was established in 1958 to attract new industry, promote industrial development, and create new jobs. Since its inception, YCEDC has facilitated funding in excess of \$73 million toward an estimated 150 economic development projects, creating and retaining more than 10,200 jobs throughout York County.

YCEDC has facilitated effective community and business partnerships and has evolved its