

CELEBRATING THE 221ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1356, Celebrating the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America and honoring the efforts of the 42 delegates who attended the majority of the Constitutional Convention meetings and the 39 signers, introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative GARRETT. This legislation acknowledges the significance of the ideals established by the Constitution, including the principle of a limited federal government with a system of checks and balances, and recognizes the Constitution as the source responsible for our nation's ability to withstand calamity and preserve stability.

Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.—Abraham Lincoln

BACKGROUND

The members of the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Constitutional Convention convened in response to dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation and the need for a strong centralized government. After 4 months of secret debate and many compromises, the proposed Constitution was submitted to the States for approval. Although the vote was close in some States, the Constitution was eventually ratified and the new Federal government came into existence in 1789. The Constitution established the U.S. government as it exists today.

The Constitution represents the founding of our government as we know it today. For 221 years, the United States has fought to maintain a democracy that equally represents everyone that resides within the boundaries of our Nation. Without this sacred document, the rules that govern our Nation would be obsolete. The concrete separation that ensures the stability of our government and thus, our Nation is due to the Constitution Convention that we recognize today.

TEXAS

Texas became a member of this great Nation in 1845. Since that moment, Texas has been proud to be a member of such a great Nation like the United States, and as a Representative for the 18th district of Texas I am proud to represent my constituents within the Legislative Branch of this government. It takes the help of every branch of governments at a number of different levels to accomplish all the things our government is capable of, and today, I am proud to be a Representative of Texas and the United States. It is a privilege to represent the people of my State and my district in Washington, DC.

CONCLUSION

I believe we must pass this resolution to demonstrate how proud we are to celebrate the success of our founding fathers and to ac-

knowledge those who put our system of government on paper allowing the United States to become such a renowned Nation. This resolution encourages us to remember those intelligent men who put their hearts and souls into developing a system give equality and representation to all people, and as we stand together now, after 221 years, must recognize their important part in developing the Constitution that governs our great Nation today.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF BALA #1

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop Bala #1 as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary.

Bala #1 is based in Bala Cynwd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Troop is recognized as the first organized, oldest and continuously operating Boy Scout Troop in the United States, according to the Lower Merion Historical Society.

Founded in 1908, the Troop has enriched the lives of boys and young men through activities geared toward building character, developing leadership skills and instilling a commitment to serving others.

During the past 100 years, Scout leaders have mentored and trained more than 1,000 Scouts, including several Eagle Scouts and the first All-Eagle Scout Patrol in the United States.

The Troop owes much of its success during the past century to dedicated volunteers and Troop alumni such as Scoutmaster Bill Sawyer and Committee Chairman Al Vitiello, who graciously commit countless hours and endless effort to the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Boy Scout Troop Bala #1 on reaching a very special milestone and offering best wishes for continued success in mentoring generations of local youth and building a stronger community and nation.

THE DAILY 45: DENVER DAD KILLS AUTISTIC SON

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. This year, on September 11, while the Nation memorialized more than 3,200 men, women, and children killed by terrorists; in the Denver town of Grand Junction, another child's life was senselessly taken, in part, because of the easy access to a gun.

Last Thursday night, while 13-year-old Jacob Grabe was sleeping, police report that his father, Allen Grabe, held a loaded gun to his son's face and discharged several rounds into his head, killing him instantly. Jacob was described by his mother as having a mild form of the neurological disorder similar to autism

called Asperger's syndrome. Jacob's mother told police that her husband described his action this way, "I had to kill him because you were ruining him." My heart goes out to Mrs. Grabe and this community on this tragic loss.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING MOSES-LUDINGTON HOSPITAL

**HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Moses-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga, New York. The hospital was founded in 1908 by Horace Moses, a businessman and Ticonderoga native, to provide medical care to the people of Ticonderoga and its surrounding area. The hospital began with 15 beds and has since grown to encompass a 24 hour emergency room, outpatient surgery, radiology, and dental services. It has the distinction of being the most remote Critical Access Hospital in New York State, providing valuable life-saving treatment to many of my rural constituents in Essex, Warren, and Hamilton Counties.

Although it remains a small rural hospital, Moses-Ludington Hospital employs 300 upstate New Yorkers and houses specialists in Cardiology, Dermatology, EMG testing, Hematology, Neurology, Oncology, Orthopedic Surgery, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Sleep Apnea, and Sports Medicine. In addition, Moses-Ludington provides long-term and temporary rehabilitative care through Heritage Commons Residential Healthcare, housing for seniors and persons with disabilities who qualify for Federal housing assistance through Lord Howe Estates, and adult care through the Moses-Ludington Adult Care facility.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations on behalf of the people of New York's 20th Congressional District to the entire Moses-Ludington community on this milestone. I wish them continued success as they work to provide high quality healthcare to the rural communities of upstate New York.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6842) to require the District of Columbia to revise its laws regarding the use and possession of firearms as necessary to comply with the requirements of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, in a manner that protects the security interests of the Federal Government and the people who work in, reside in, or visit the District of Columbia and does not undermine

the efforts of law enforcement, homeland security, and military officials to protect the Nation's Capital from crime and terrorism:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6842, the National Capital Security and Safety Act and in opposition of the Childers substitute. H.R. 6842 is a commonsense bill that requires the District of Columbia to revise its gun laws in order to comply with the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *District Columbia v. Heller* within 6 months and does not violate Home Rule and the self governance of the District of Columbia.

Over 30 years ago, the District banned the ownership of handguns, making it among the stiffest bans in the Nation. Like many large metropolitan areas, gun violence contributes to the high crime rates in the District, but the ban has helped to reduce homicide rates. Instead of working to increase the number of guns in the District, we should be helping to stem the availability of these weapons and protecting District residents and visitors from the threat of violence. This Congress should not be dictating to the District of Columbia the laws that govern them when their own elected delegate does not even have the right to vote on her own bill or its substitute.

The Childers substitute is dangerous. It both ignores the will of District residents and puts more guns on the street of our Nation's Capital. The Childers substitute repeals a ban on semi-automatic weapons and removes the ban on carrying these weapons in public, prohibits registration requirements for most guns, and drops criminal penalties for possessing an unregistered firearm.

Mr. Chairman, Congress must not strip the District of its power to regulate guns. We must not be reckless when it comes to protecting the citizens of D.C., our highest elected officials, and visitors to our Nation's Capital. I urge a vote in favor of the Norton bill and strongly urge a "no" vote on the Childers substitute which severely puts the safety of the District at risk.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN CAMBRIDGE

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to honor Dan Cambridge. Mr. Cambridge, a former advertising executive for Young and Rubicam in Des Moines, Iowa, has been named the new tourism director of Lexington, Missouri.

Mr. Cambridge graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in journalism. It was soon after his completion of college that he began working for the Des Moines Register. He then spent over 20 years with a Young and Rubicam affiliate. Mr. Cambridge is excited to begin his new post in Lexington, and claims he envisions the tourism commission focusing on public relations angles with the city. Dan has experience with the Iowa Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and I know he will be a valuable asset to my hometown. Cambridge's son attended Wentworth Military Academy. His family now resides in the Kansas City metro area.

Madam Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Dan Cam-

bridge on his new position in Lexington, Missouri, and in wishing him the very best.

H.R. 5840, THE INSURANCE INFORMATION ACT OF 2008, AND H.R. 5611, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS REFORM ACT OF 2008

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering two important bills today—H.R. 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008, and H.R. 5611, the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2008. Both these bills will streamline aspects of the insurance industry to help ensure more consistency for agents, brokers, and consumers alike.

H.R. 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008, creates a new Office of Insurance Information (OII) under the U.S. Treasury to advise the President and Congress on insurance issues. Currently, all 50 states regulate insurance in their own unique manner. The OII will serve as a hub for data collection and will help guide policymakers working to alleviate undue burdens throughout the insurance regulatory regime.

As the new agency responsible for investigating and reporting on insurance issues, the OII will also coordinate Federal policy on international insurance matters. In today's global marketplace, this will help American insurance companies obtain better access to foreign markets and strengthen their positions as leaders in offering insurance products both here and overseas.

Additionally, H.R. 5611, the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2008, creates the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, NARAB. Established as a nonprofit corporation to facilitate the nationwide licensing of insurance agents and brokers, NARAB will supervise and discipline individuals who wish to practice in multiple states.

This new, voluntary tool, which gives agents and brokers the opportunity to be licensed by individual states under the current system, injects much-needed uniformity for those agents and brokers whose businesses stretch from state to state. Consumers will obtain better services and financial products for lower costs while agents and brokers will avoid many of the headaches they currently face due to the myriad of state licensing standards with which they must currently comply.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these measures.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to support of H. Res. 1420 which honors the 7th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93. On September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people died and thousands of others were injured, scarring families and communities across the Nation. The tragic events of that day also challenged our long-held sense of national security and forever-changed our Nation.

In the time following September 11, we also saw the best of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable tragedy. Americans from all over the country banded together and responded to the barbaric attacks with an outpouring of support and commitment to the families of 9/11 and to each other. Everyday heroes from all 50 States, including at least 308 from Connecticut and 64 from the Fifth District alone, put their lives and health on the line and traveled to New York to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero. Families who lost loved ones on that fateful day dedicated their lives to honoring those killed and making sure that, as a Nation, we never forget. The Fetchets, from New Canaan, Connecticut, are just one example—they lost their son Brad during the attacks on the World Trade Center towers, and rather than resigning to mourning, they channeled their grief into resolve, founding VOICES of September 11th, an organization dedicated to advocating for those affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

Seven years later, with energy and the economy on the forefront of everyone's minds, the lessons of 9/11 seem less immediate; but in reality, we should draw upon the strength and cooperation our Nation showed during that time to solve the economic and national security problems we face today, and to ensure that the needs of 9/11 families and workers are met. I am proud to say that in 2007 we worked together to pass legislation that requires the enactment of the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, making our Nation safer and more secure. As we work to ensure that the new law is fully implemented, we must also not forget the thousands of people who still struggle every single day as a result of the attacks. As we all know, the collapse of the World Trade Center towers released a dangerous cocktail of toxins, putting hundreds of area workers, residents, rescue and recovery workers, and others in the area around Ground Zero at risk. Numerous studies have documented that many of those exposed to the toxins have developed lower and upper respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental health conditions. With staggering medical bills and the inability to work due to illness, many of the heroes of 9/11 are now in severe financial distress. The Federal Government has a moral obligation to provide them with the care they desperately need and deserve.