

authoritarianism to democratic government, providing a role model for other non-democratic political governments in Asia.

We hope that in the years ahead, Taiwan and China will continue to reduce their bilateral tensions. Cross-strait relations have been improving: There are now charter flights from Taiwan to the mainland, relaxation of China-bound investments, more visas for mainland tourists, and more exchange in many areas. Taiwan's new President, Ma Ying-jeou, is committed to pursue reconciliation and truce with the People's Republic. President Ma looks for peace and coprosperity with the People's Republic.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and a warm welcome to Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Yuan is a distinguished career diplomat and will most definitely represent his country well. I look forward to working with Ambassador Yuan, and welcome him to Washington, DC.

HONORING MICHAEL STRAMMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Strammel of Liberty, Missouri. Michael 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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 Michael Strammel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OPPOSING THE COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the sham legislation Speaker PELOSI unfurls for us this week. For months, energy and gas costs have impacted every aspect of Americans' lives—prices at the pump, the cost of a gallon of milk, school board budgets, etc.—and today, the Speaker believes that we have cause to celebrate, because at long last, she has unveiled from the deep recesses of her chambers a bill with the word “energy” in the title.

But when the champagne toast is over and the streamers come down, all America gets in this so-called “energy” bill, is hot air and higher taxes. The bill is merely a reflection of the status-quo, and a fraud on the American consumer paying \$4 a gallon gas.

The reality is:

This bill blocks production and 35 years worth of American oil in 88 percent of the outercontinental shelf!

Impedes production in ANWR, with a projected 10 billion barrels of oil, and permanently locks up a trillion barrels of western oil shale.

New refineries to be built on American soil with this bill? Not a chance.

Fifty percent of our power is from coal, yet there is zero encouragement of coal-to-liquids development or clean coal generation.

Even emissions-free nuclear energy gets a backseat in this bill.

Don't look for pro-production measures to reduce prices at the pump, you won't find them here.

What this bill does do is raises taxes and increases electricity costs for families, seniors and small businesses already feeling their wallets being pinched by high gas prices and rising home heating costs.

Simply put, today we do nothing to provide relief at the pump to the citizens of Kentucky and elsewhere. Let's take off our party hats and call today's festivities what they really are—a thinly veiled effort to inoculate the Speaker in November and appease a small group of special interests. I urge my colleagues to reject this Election Day mirage and demand meaningful comprehensive energy legislation for the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on September 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 616 on H.R. 6685; “yea” on rollcall 617 on H.R. 1907; and “yea” on rollcall 618 on H.R. 6853.

COMPACT WILL PROTECT GREAT LAKES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are one of the great treasures of the world and are fully 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. They are unique in our Nation and unique on this planet. But the Great Lakes are especially near and dear to those of us in Michigan, the Great Lakes State.

The Great Lakes are part of our identity as 4 of the 5 Lakes touch Michigan's shore. The Lakes are important to our State for commerce, for recreation, for drinking water, and for tourism. They are an invaluable part of the environment. The Great Lakes deserve every protection to ensure that they remain a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

One of the primary reasons I ran for Congress was to preserve and protect the Great Lakes. I have been proud to work with my col-

leagues on issues like invasive species, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, and the Water Resources Development Act. Today, the House will take a historic step towards protecting this treasure by ratifying the Great Lakes Compact.

The compact is a binding agreement among the Great Lakes States to implement a conservation standard for regulating water withdrawals from the Great Lakes Basin. This document will essentially ban new and increased diversions of water outside the Great Lakes Basin with only limited, highly regulated exceptions. It also establishes a framework for each State to enact laws protecting the basin.

There is no doubt that water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, both around the world and here in the United States. Droughts in the Southeast and the West have demonstrated quite clearly that we cannot simply take abundant freshwater for granted. In fact, a recent issue of *BusinessWeek* screamed the headline: “There Will Be Water: Why T. Boone Pickens Thinks It's the New Oil.” Water shortages will undoubtedly lead to jurisdictional fights over access.

The Great Lakes Region has taken it upon themselves to work through these issues before areas outside the basin attempt to access water from the Great Lakes. I am proud of our region for coming together to decide the future of the Great Lakes before others have the opportunity to do that for us.

This measure will ensure the continued protection of the Great Lakes for generations to come, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of the Great Lakes Compact.

RECOGNIZING KYLE HOUSTON

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Kyle Houston of Butler, Kentucky. On September 29, 2007, Kyle distinguished himself in a crisis situation when a kitchen fire erupted in his grandparents' home.

At the time of the fire, Kyle was watching television with his grandfather, Paul Green. Mr. Green has emphysema and receives oxygen 24 hours a day. In a display of courage, maturity and composure that far exceeded his 8 years of age, Kyle responded to the emergency quickly and effectively. Kyle roused his grandfather and helped him out of the house, then reentered the smoky home to retrieve his grandfather's portable oxygen tank. He then helped his grandfather reattach his oxygen tank and ensured that it was working properly. Finally, Kyle called 9-1-1 and alerted his parents to the situation.

Without his grandson's quick response, Mr. Green could have suffered extremely severe injuries from smoke inhalation. On October 6, 2008, in recognition of Kyle's heroism, Cub Scout Pack 75 will present Kyle with the Heroism Award for putting into practice Scouting skills and ideals. Kyle is a first year Webelos Scout with Pack 75.

Kyle's composure during what must have been a very frightening event is impressive. Kyle's mother and father have many reasons to be proud of their incredible son.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Kyle Houston for his outstanding actions and character.

HONORING TAYLOR MCELHANEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor McElhaney of Kansas City, Missouri. Taylor 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Taylor 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 Taylor McElhaney for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIPPE THE ORIGINAL RESTAURANT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Philippe the Original restaurant on the occasion of its 100 year anniversary. This historic diner in Downtown Los Angeles in my congressional district is legendary for its succulent French dip sandwiches.

Started in 1908 by a French immigrant named Philippe Mathieu, this restaurant thrives today at 1001 North Alameda Street, one block north of Union Station, at Alameda and Ord Street. In 1927, Philippe Mathieu retired and sold the restaurant to two brothers, David and Harry Martin. The Martins and their in-laws, the Binders, have owned and operated the restaurant ever since.

On a typical weekday, more than 3,000 customers patronize Philippe's, ordering up its renowned beef, lamb, pork and turkey dip sandwiches. The restaurant is even busier on Saturdays and Sundays when Philippe's dedicated crew serves as many as 4,000 customers who step atop the restaurant's sawdust-covered floors to place their orders.

So what's behind these hearty sandwiches "dipped" in a special meat juice—or jus, as the French say?

Starting at 3 a.m., the restaurant's ovens begin the essential task of roasting the beef, legs of lamb, pork butts and turkey breasts that make up the bulk of Philippe's sandwiches. The dipping jus is made by simmering 150 pounds of beef bones with stockpot vegetables for 24 hours. The stock is then used to deglaze the roasting pans to form a unique

and flavorful combination. When the sandwiches are assembled, the meats are sliced, placed on French rolls from the Frisco Baking Co. in Cypress Park, accented with Philippe's homemade mustard and then "dipped."

While its French dip sandwiches are undeniably the restaurant's main draw, Philippe's also serves many other popular timeless dishes that made the restaurant a success when it opened a century ago. The menu includes: pickled pigs' feet (the restaurant sells 300 pounds a week); coleslaw; house-pickled beets; magenta hard-boiled eggs in beet juice; fruit pies; baked apples; tapioca pudding; and tart lemonade. Another legacy to its days gone by: Philippe's sells a cup of coffee for a mere 10 cents.

In addition to the restaurant's tasty fare and reasonable prices, Philippe's success and longevity are also attributed to the restaurant's hardworking and loyal employees. Many of the restaurant's 73 employees have worked at Philippe's for more than 20 years and six are second generation.

General Manager Richard Binder said in a recent LA Times article that the restaurant prides itself on offering its employees a quality work environment. "We've been union since at least 1954. Our employees say they're very happy with their medical plan, which covers spouses and children—the whole family," Mr. Binder said.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Martin and Binder families and the restaurant's many dedicated employees on 100 years of continuous operation of Philippe's in Los Angeles. I also extend to all of them my best wishes for many more years of success ahead, satisfying the sandwich cravings of current and future generations of Angelenos and tourists, and I invite my colleagues to stop by Philippe's the next time they're in Los Angeles to have a great sandwich in the 34th District.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chairman of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force I am pleased to rise in support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Commission, Alliance for the Great Lakes and more, would implement a host of water conservation and transparency measures that will limit water diversions and encourage responsible, sustainable water use. A state-by-state approach will not solve the problem—S.J. Res. 45 is a comprehensive, regional solution to prevent the selling off of our most important natural resource.

The Great Lakes are among the Nation's most precious natural resources. As the world's largest freshwater system, the lakes provide food, recreation, drinking water, and jobs for nearly 40 million people. Yet the Great Lakes face a number of threats, ranging from

sewage and industrial pollution to invasive species and decreasing water levels. These hazards threaten not only the ecosystem and water supply, but also the long-term economic stability of the entire Midwest.

Studies document that lake levels have been on the decline since the 1970s. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Great Lakes are now a combined 3.5 feet below their long-term average. Many factors are believed to contribute to the declining levels, including increasing air and water temperatures which reduce the ice cover of the lakes and result in faster evaporation during winter. In fact, the National Wildlife Federation estimates that the lakes could drop up to 8 feet this century if action is not taken.

While Congress can take steps to help mitigate the effects of global warming, Great Lakes states must regulate water use. We run the risk that without water diversion safeguards, the drop in lake levels could continue—we must set standards to responsibly manage water use. In 1998, the Canadian Nova Group tried to ship Lake Superior water in bulk to Asia. Last October, then-Presidential candidate Bill Richardson suggested that western states use Great Lakes water to meet their growing water demand. Clearly, the desire to seize Great Lakes water exists, and we must prevent the large-scale depletion of our resource.

Perhaps the most shocking example of water mismanagement is the Aral Sea at the borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In 50 years, what once was the world's fourth largest inland sea lost 75 percent of its water due to irresponsible irrigation and regional growth. This demonstrates how seemingly limitless supplies of water can vanish quickly.

To protect the Great Lakes, Congress needs to pass the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. As a proud original cosponsor to H.R. 6577, the House companion version, we must do everything we can to protect this national treasure for future generations to enjoy. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this sorely needed legislation.

HONORING DR. LAVERN FRANZEN

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. LaVern Franzen, who has recently retired as president of Central Community College and who has been committed to advancing career education in my home state of Nebraska since 1967.

Throughout his career, Dr. Franzen has encouraged teamwork and provided guidance and support for students and college employees alike.

He is known as a man who thinks outside the box, and whose commitment to education knows no bounds.

He has established a drag racing club to provide learning experiences outside the class; organizing a campus chapter of SkillsUSA to enhance the occupational skills of students in communications, leadership, and teamwork; opening Pooh Corner College to provide child care services for students and