

Madam Speaker, it is because of soldiers like Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake that we will achieve victory in Iraq. With dedication and determination of our armed forces is what will protect our great nation. Madame Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Command Sergeant Major Stephen D. Blake as a true American. I am proud to call Stephen a fellow mountaineer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I unfortunately was unable to be present and to vote on the legislation considered by the House on September 15, 16, and 17, 2008.

On rollcall numbers 589, 590, 591, 600, and 601, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall numbers 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, and 597, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall number 599, had I been present, I would have voted "no." Though the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) included some good provisions, many of which I had supported in the past, the bill also included many provisions that concerned me. I was very troubled by the legislative process. The drafting and introduction of this legislation included no Republican Members, and the bill was offered under a closed rule, prohibiting any Republican amendments for consideration.

On rollcall number 598, had I been present, I would have voted "yes." A bipartisan compromise was presented in the form of the Republican Motion to Recommit.

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to vote on these important measures.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RE- SOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the House companion, H.R. 6577.

Almost 40 million people now get their daily drinking water from the Great Lakes. It is the largest body of surface freshwater in North America and contains 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. It is the economic engine that drives the Midwest. And just as important, the Lakes are a national treasure.

Today we are taking historic action to protect this national treasure by passing the Great Lakes Compact. In 1998, a Canadian company proposed to take water from the Lakes by tanker to Asia, but the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG) banded to-

gether and partnered with their Canadian counterparts to find a way to protect our Great Lakes water. The result of that cooperation was the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact that we are passing today.

The Great Lakes are a closed system, and less than 1 percent of Great Lakes water is returned annually through snowmelt, rain and groundwater recharge. We need to protect this resource by not only keeping pollutants out, but also by keeping Great Lakes water in the Great Lakes basin.

All eight Great Lakes states have approved the Compact, and I am proud that my home state of Illinois acted quickly, passing it in August of 2007 as the second state to ratify the Compact. Additionally, Ontario and Quebec have passed companion legislation approving the Compact.

The Compact prohibits diversions of Great Lakes water outside of the basin without the permission of the other Great Lakes states, creates regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency, and includes other protections for one of our greatest national resources.

As a father and a member of Congress, ensuring that the Lakes are around for future generations is of the utmost importance to me, which is why I am proud to support the Great Lakes Compact.

HONORING WILLIAM GATES, SR.

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, almost 2.5 billion people live on less than \$2 per day. Malaria kills over 1 million children every year. Nearly 40 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS and almost 2.8 million people die from it annually. Madam Speaker, the great State of Washington is blessed to be home to many of the top minds in the world tackling these heart-sinking problems. And while it is easy to feel small and insignificant in the face of the enormity of these challenges, William Gates, Sr. has never been a wallflower.

While he is perhaps most well-known for being the father of the founder of the Microsoft Corporation, he is truly a powerhouse unto himself and a beacon of what a life driven with purpose and compassion can achieve. Mr. Gates currently serves as the chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but as the people of our great state know, that is an encore on top of a prominent legal career and record of community leadership that spans from school levy campaigns to the United Way to a place on the University of Washington Board of Regents.

In his role as chair at the largest philanthropic organization in world history, Mr. Gates has applied the same devotion that he has carried with him throughout his life to improving the lives of those less fortunate. Through his work we are seeing amazing results in our schools, our libraries, and our villages.

Mr. Gates believes that every life is valuable, that every person deserves the opportunity to learn, and that the power of knowledge can change our lives. He continues to challenge us to redefine how we think of our

neighbor and to extend the same compassion to our global friends as we would the elderly widow down the street. His work exemplifies the good we can achieve when that compassion is coalesced with the energy, determination, and resources to concentrate on targeted results-driven projects that are held accountable to achieving their goals.

We are fortunate in our State to have such an extraordinary example for the young and the old among us of what we might achieve when we answer the call to civic action. For his lifelong commitment to improving our communities, for his never failing to embrace the have-nots, and for his visionary leadership on global health and education, William Gates, Sr. deserves the highest accolades.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JERRY MIRANDA, USN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding military service and contributions to our country of Commander Gerald Nereus Miranda, Jr., U.S. Navy—known to us all as Jerry—on the occasion of the completion of his assignment as Deputy Director of the Navy Congressional Liaison Office for the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of San Diego, California, Commander Miranda is a 1990 graduate of the University of California at San Diego. He received his commission at the Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island that November. After completing his initial submarine training, he earned his submarine "gold dolphins" in 1993. He served aboard USS *Portsmouth* (SSN 707), USS *Florida* (SSBN 728), and as Executive Officer aboard USS *Key West* (SSN 722). He also served with Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was a key member of a Joint Special Operations Task Force battle staff while stationed in Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following his Executive Officer tour, Commander Miranda was selected to serve as Deputy Director, Navy House Liaison in February 2006. In this highly visible tour, he assisted in the passage of vital Navy budget legislation during the 109th and 110th Congresses. Additionally, he planned, executed, and led 42 congressional and staff delegations across the globe that included meetings with various world leaders in support of America's national security policy.

Over the past two years, Commander Miranda has been a fixture in my office. His expansive knowledge of the Navy's policies and priorities, especially his experience in the submarine force, has helped me advocate for the needs of my constituents and my district. Whether it was answering questions from my staff about submarine policy, coordinating congressional delegation trips to Groton or simply taking the time to stop by the office to check in, Commander Miranda has always been a ready and accessible resource. His professionalism, resourcefulness and dedication to the Navy and our Nation has proved invaluable to me and my colleagues, and he has

truly set a high bar for those who follow in his position.

I am proud to say that Commander Miranda has become a valued friend to me and my staff, and we will miss having his counsel and support here in Congress. As Commander Miranda prepares to leave Capitol Hill to serve as a commanding officer of a United States Submarine, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Commander Miranda and his family for their tireless contributions to a grateful nation and in wishing them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DANIEL KAY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Kay of Ottawa, Kansas. I want to extend my congratulations on his retirement and offer my gratitude for his 32 years of work for the Child Support Enforcement Division of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

Mr. Kay's dedication to his job has been a tremendous asset to the State of Kansas and SRS. I commend him on a career devoted to defending children in Kansas who can not defend themselves. The work he has done is greatly appreciated by the State, local communities, and families that have been reached with each child that he has protected.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in honoring Daniel Kay, and recognize his outstanding commitment to serving the children of Kansas. I know that whatever he takes on next in life, the people of Kansas remain grateful for his many years of faithful and hard work.

IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF COAST GUARD HELICOPTER CG- 6505

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today to pay a special tribute to four members of the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wischmeier, Aviation Survival Technician First Class David Skimin, and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Joshua Nichols, were all killed when the helicopter in which they were conducting training exercises crashed near Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 4.

Commander Thomas Nelson, who was the Executive Officer of Air Station Barbers Point and was also flying as part of the training mission, remains missing.

The active search for Commander Nelson, which encompassed an area of more than 3,000 square miles and involved not only Coast Guard personnel but officials from the City of Honolulu, the United States Navy, and the Air National Guard, has now been suspended.

Commander Nelson, who is originally from Staten Island, had been stationed at Barbers Point since the summer of last year. During his 20-year career, he had served as Deputy Chief of the Office of Security and Defense Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters here in Washington, and at air stations in Louisiana, New York, and Washington state.

Lieutenant Commander Wischmeier, the pilot of the helicopter at the time it crashed, was from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from Naval Flight School in 1991 and over his 19-year Coast Guard career, he served at air stations in Florida, Louisiana, and Alaska.

Petty Officer Skimin was from San Bernardino, California. An experienced rescue swimmer, he had served at air stations in Texas, California, and Alaska over his 16-year career.

Petty Officer Nichols was from Gloucester, Virginia, and had been in the Coast Guard for 8 years. He was a flight mechanic and had previously been stationed in Alabama and at several bases in California.

Each of these men was married and had children.

These men gave their lives in service to our nation. As members of the Coast Guard, their mission—the mission to which they chose to devote their professional careers—was saving lives.

To those who are in peril at sea, the sight of a Coast Guard helicopter coming over the horizon means that help is at hand—and that the often desperate hopes of people whose lives are truly at stake are about to be realized.

Throughout their careers, these four men, who combined more than 60 years of service, each contributed their strength, skills, and dedication to making such rescues possible.

My prayers are with the families of those who have been lost to us, the men and women of Barbers Point, and the nearly 42,000 men and women of the Coast Guard who together comprise our thin blue line at sea.

My prayers are also with all the members of the Coast Guard. Every day as they conduct search and rescue operations, interdict illegal drugs, respond to pollution and national security incidents, and man cutters and aircraft, each member of the Coast Guard faces the same risks that Commander Nelson, Commander Wischmeier, Petty Officer Skimin, and Petty Officer Nichols faced with the same dedication to duty that these four showed.

Just this week, we have again seen the Coast Guard's dedication in action as they have worked to aid those who have been so terribly affected by Hurricane Ike, including rescuing more than 200 people.

We thank the members of this service for their heroic efforts—and mourn with them the tragic loss of their comrades.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone

who is a good friend and for whom I have great respect—Rep. MICHAEL McNULTY. For two decades MIKE has served as a Member for the House of Representatives, first for the 23rd and then for the 21st Congressional District of New York State. We were elected together to the House of Representatives in 1988, and this year we will leave together. It has been a great honor to work with MIKE for so many years. He has been and will continue to be a good friend.

MIKE began his career in public office in November 1969 as Town Supervisor of Green Island, 8 years later becoming Mayor of the Village of Green Island. He then went on to be elected to represent New York's 106th Assembly District in 1982. Six years later MIKE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 23rd Congressional District of New York in 1988, and was re-elected in 1990. In 1992, he was elected to represent the new 21st Congressional District, and was re-elected in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

During his ten terms in office, MIKE has served on the Armed Services Committee, the Small Business Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Select Committee on Hunger, and the Executive Committee of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

MIKE is also currently serving in his fifteenth year on the Ways and Means Committee. I must praise MIKE's effectiveness as a member of this important committee. Throughout his tenure he has sought to serve wisely and justly, while never failing to attend to the needs of New York State.

In addition, I would like to note MIKE's service in the chair as the Speaker pro tempore, a position he often occupied during his tenure. He served honorably in that role and was always considered to be fair and impartial.

Many of you may not know that MIKE is a true citizen of the world, having visited an incredible number of countries, spanning all seven continents. One of my most memorable experiences with MIKE was my first trip to Ireland with him and former President Clinton. I fondly remember that Congressional delegation trip and many others that MIKE and I took together.

I thank MIKE for his 20 years of serving the United States and New York and recognize his wife Nancy and his four daughters Michele, Jody, Nancy and Maria for sharing him with us for so many years. I congratulate MIKE on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

ARTICLE BY DR. PHYLLIS ZAGANO CONCERNING CATHOLIC TEACHING ON HUMAN LIFE

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD an article by Dr. Phyllis Zagano, Senior Research Associate-in-Residence at Hofstra University concerning Catholic teaching on human life.