

homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Madame Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### EXTENDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

To be clear, there are certainly issues that Congress must address in any future consideration of the flood insurance program. But first and foremost, we must ensure that the NFIP continues to protect our communities.

The NFIP was established to provide homeowners with protection from flood, following recognition that the private market was simply not capable of providing the necessary coverage. The program, which has been operating since 1968, is integral to ensuring that homeowners in high-risk areas, such as my South Florida district, are able to receive adequate protection from flood and are able to swiftly recover following a disaster.

In Broward County, we currently have over 400,000 residential NFIP policies in place—which is more policies than any other county in the nation. Palm Beach County is also near the top of the list with over 150,000 NFIP policies.

The stability provided by the NFIP allows homeowners to responsibly insure their property from flood damage, which is especially important given the active nature of this year's hurricane season.

It's important to recognize however that the NFIP is only one piece of the larger puzzle of protecting our homeowners from disaster. With the property insurance crisis growing across the U.S., many people are facing difficulties protecting themselves against windstorms. And it is no longer simply a Florida problem, but is becoming a national issue. Policyholders are being dropped or are facing dramatic rate increases in states that are not traditionally considered high risk, such as Massachusetts and New York. Many insurers are no longer writing at all on the coasts of states like Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

That is why Congressman TIM MAHONEY and I introduced and passed the Homeowners' Defense Act last year. This legislation addresses the crisis in availability and afford-

ability of homeowners' insurance. It helps states to manage the risk that has been assumed by their state sponsored insurance funds by allowing them to enter the capital markets to find global investors that would be willing to assume that risk on their behalf. Our plan aims to increase market stabilization, particularly in times following natural disasters when rates traditionally increase dramatically and homeowners are dropped from their insurers.

With this legislation having already passed the House, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass our comprehensive plan to help homeowners and stabilize the market.

#### RECOGNIZING NGO WORK ON ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to give a sincere thank you to Representative BARBARA LEE. In this Congress, there is no greater voice for peace than Congresswoman LEE.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution recognizing nongovernmental organizations working to help bring a just and lasting peace to Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace will not be brought about by governments and presidents. Peace will only be achieved when people come together to support a common goal—security and prosperity for all.

More than any conference or summit, the work of local and international NGO's have brought the region closer to a non-violent resolution to the ongoing crisis. Their work is invaluable.

From student exchanges to high level reconciliation programs, NGO's are irreplaceable in the peace process.

I applaud this resolution's commitment to peace and nonviolence and urge my colleagues support today.

#### COMPREHENSIVE TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1532, the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008.

If you think that TB is a disease that occurs in impoverished nations you are wrong. In 2007, more than 13,000 individuals were diagnosed with TB in the U.S.

This year alone my district had several TB outbreaks and in May, 150 people were exposed to TB in an outbreak and 19 individuals were diagnosed with TB.

Each year approximately 9 million people develop active TB and 1.7 million die of the disease, making it the second deadliest in the world. Right now one third of the world's popu-

lation is infected with TB and TB will claim 30 million lives over the next decade.

With time, the TB germ has changed. It is now airborne and drug resistant strains have been found in 46 countries, including the U.S.

In 2006, 91 cases of multi drug-resistant TB were reported in the United States and MDR-TB has been reported in 49 states. From 1993 to 2007, there were 88 cases of extensively drug resistant TB in the U.S., which is resistant to almost all drugs used to treat TB.

Unfortunately, we have allowed the treatment and diagnostic tools to treat TB go without updating for far too long. In fact, the most common test to diagnose TB is more than 100 years old.

The drugs commonly used to treat TB are more than 40 years old, the TB vaccine we currently have is more than 85 years old and only provides some protections against severe TB in children, but is unreliable in protecting against the most common form of adult TB.

The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act addresses the issue of domestic TB by improving and increasing efforts to prevent, detect, and treat individuals in our country with TB.

It would authorize grants within the CDC for research, development, and education. These grants include clinical trials to evaluate new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines; studies of at-risk populations; and projects to control TB along the U.S.-Mexico border.

H.R. 1532 will reauthorize the Advisory Council on the Elimination of TB so the council may coordinate federal TB control and develop a new national plan to eliminate TB in the U.S.

H.R. 1532 also provides for new tools in the fight against domestic TB by providing for CDC research and development for new drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines.

The bill also directs the NIH to expand basic and clinical TB research and develop a TB vaccine.

The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act provides the means necessary to wage war against TB in the U.S. and hopefully in the future the eradication of TB in this country.

#### SUPPORTING RESTITUTION FOR PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY NAZI AND COMMUNIST REGIMES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 371, which supports the fair, comprehensive and immediate restitution of property illegally confiscated during the last century by the Nazis, Nazi-allied governments and Communist regimes.

As many of you know, survivors are in the waning years of their lives, and it is incumbent on Congress and the administration to clearly articulate our unequivocal support, as we have done in previous Congresses, for just and immediate property restitution or compensation.

While there are some nations in Europe that have enacted legislation for the restitution of or compensation for private and communal

property, there remain several that have not passed or implemented legislation.

Congress and the administration must continue to work with and encourage our European allies to rectify historical wrongs and bring a measure of closure for Holocaust Survivors and those individuals who lived under the deadly yoke of Communism.

Despite repeated promises by some governments, Holocaust survivors and heirs have struggled and waited for over six decades to recover their property or receive adequate compensation.

The resolution before us today simply calls on Central and European countries, more specifically Poland and Lithuania, to enact fair, comprehensive and just legislation to allow for restitution of properties that were illegally taken away from citizens and communities during the last century.

With respect to Poland, I want to commend Polish Prime Minister Tusk for his public commitment to introduce property restitution legislation. As the Polish government moves the legislative process forward, it is essential that a claims process be created that is un-bureaucratic, simple, transparent and easy for claimants to use. I urge the Bush administration to continue to directly engage the Polish Government over the coming months and to express their strong support for a claims process that is fair and just for survivors and other claimants.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and in support of fair and just property restitution, which is long overdue.

**PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, to require equity in mental health and substance-related disorders under group health plans.

I want to thank Representative PATRICK KENNEDY for his leadership in developing and negotiating the passage of this critical law.

It's also right that this bill be named in honor of Senator Domenici and our friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone. Senator Wellstone was truly a champion for mental health and this Act honors his memory.

As a former psychological social worker, I appreciate the necessity of mental health parity and the significance of this bill. Many diseases go hand in hand with depression, substance abuse, and a variety of other mental health issues that cannot go untreated.

For example, when a person is diagnosed with cancer or HIV, they and their families go through a range of emotional responses. To treat only the physical signs of illness is to ignore the broad ranging emotional implications of a disease.

Currently, companies can limit both the number of visits that a person makes to a

mental health professional in a year and the network of doctors a patient can see, even where no such limit exists for medical or surgical benefits. That is ridiculous.

Disease treatment must provide individuals with the ability to adapt their lifestyle and manage the changes associated with their illness. Whether it is anxiety, stress, or even stigma—the diagnosis of a disease always impacts an individual's mental health. To downplay the necessity of mental health care in treatment is simply counterproductive.

By enacting this bill to require mental health parity, we take a crucial step forward in guaranteeing that our constituents can access the level of health care that they need. I believe however, that fundamentally, we need to move to a universal health care system.

Additionally, the Act prohibits insurance companies from charging different rates for deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket expenses for mental health.

These commonsense changes will help expand access to mental health services throughout the country, and I am pleased to support them.

I urge the president to sign HR 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and to recognize that mental health care is a crucial tool in promoting the overall health and well-being of the American people.

**PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. I applaud your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor and addressing the issue of mental health parity. We must expand access to mental health to ensure a strong and productive America that provides for its most vulnerable citizens. This bill will do just that, without creating an undue hardship on employers or insurers.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act requires those insurers or group health plans who do choose to cover mental health to do so on an equal basis with other covered health needs. This will ensure that those in need can get the treatment that is medically necessary.

My home State of North Carolina was one of the first States to adopt a mental health parity law back in 1991, and last year the State legislature expanded and strengthened its mental health parity provisions. I support the efforts of North Carolina's mental health professionals in bringing this issue to the forefront of our State's agenda, and I am pleased that we are following suit today in passing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 6983.

**CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 4544, the Code Talkers Recognition Act. I commend Mr. Boren for introducing this important legislation.

We all know that during World War II, Americans from across the country came together and did what they could to defend our Nation. In recent years we have learned more about the efforts of a particular group of people that had an enormous influence in the success of the U.S. military, especially in the Pacific theater—the Native American code talkers.

Code talkers used their native languages to transmit indecipherable messages for the military. Native code talkers were unique because their languages were not widely known by our enemies, let alone many people in the United States. The code talkers' ability to communicate with other tribal members in their own language gave the United States a substantial advantage on the battlefield.

Although more people are now familiar with Navajo code talkers from World War II, that was not the first time that we employed Native American code talkers. The United States also used code talkers in World War I. Their efforts during both wars were critical, and I am glad that we have come to understand and appreciate the value of their contributions.

While all veterans' service is worthy of our thanks, I want to highlight the commitment made by the code talker veterans of World War I because Native Americans were not citizens of the United States until 1924. World War I code talkers were serving our country nobly even before they were recognized as citizens. In fact, Native Americans have served in the military dating back to the revolutionary war, and they have the highest per capita participation in the U.S. military of any ethnic group. It is appropriate we honor their service and sacrifice today.

Congress previously recognized the Navajo code talkers. However, approximately 14 Indian tribes are known to have had tribal members serve as code talkers. Mr. BOREN's legislation would recognize the efforts of all code talkers. I commend his efforts, but more importantly I commend our Native American veterans for their commitment and service to their country. I urge passage of H.R. 4544.

**COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Act, H.R. 1907.

CELCP is a wonderful example of a public/private partnership. I believe strongly in protecting lands currently threatened by the rapid