

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

development across the country and I am so pleased that CELCP is able to make such a valuable contribution to the protection of coastal and estuarine lands, which are considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical and aesthetic value.

This program provides badly needed federal funds for the purchase and protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems with the goal of better ensuring the ecological and economic health of our coastal communities—this is critical in light of the fact that 60 percent of Americans will live along the coast by 2010.

I have been privileged to work with Representative Saxton and applaud his dedication to formally authorizing this program that Congress has funded since 2003. By establishing a plan for the preservation of our coastal areas, authorizing CELCP will build on the successful Coastal Zone Management Act, and it will continue to encourage partnership programs among federal government, state agencies, local governments, private landowners and non-profits.

CELCP has certainly provided the backbone for strong partnerships in Delaware, through the Nature Conservancy, and DNREC, and NOAA—and I look forward to the continued success of the program.

As we all know too well, protecting open space is particularly important in Delaware, where rapid development is underway. Delaware's CELCP funding totals around \$10 million; most recently it has helped ensure that Blackbird Creek, with wetlands, forest, and important species, remains ecologically valuable today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 1907.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS
JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank my colleagues and the Education and Labor Committee for allowing this legislation to be considered today. Additionally, I would like to recognize Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who during her five terms in Congress, worked to advance fire safety, particularly on college campuses.

Mr. Speaker, far too many of our nation's young people have been lost to senseless fire tragedies at places where they are supposed to be encouraged to grow and kept safe—their own college campuses. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, 94 people have been killed in student housing fires since January of 2000. Sadly, many of these deaths may have been preventable with the help of proper fire safety technology.

This legislation will establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies. This program is vital to helping ensure that our students are provided the most technologically advanced fire

safety equipment. I am confident that this will not only help make colleges safer across the country, but will also save lives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan and important piece of legislation.

TRAIL OF TEARS DOCUMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I come here in support of H.R. 5335, which would amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. First, I would like to thank my colleague from Tennessee, Congressman WAMP, for sponsoring this important legislation. As an Oklahoman, this legislation is significant to my district, where many of my constituents are descendants of those who survived the Trail of Tears. However, as the only Native American currently serving in Congress this bill is also personally important to me, as my ancestors were forcibly relocated from Mississippi to Oklahoma through the Trail of Tears, though not one of the routes originally documented in the original Historic Trail. Of the dozens of tribes that call Oklahoma home today, very few are originally from the area. Virtually all of the tribes in Oklahoma experienced the tragedy of the forced relocation process.

Mr. Chairman, when the Trail of Tears Historic Trail was created by Congress in 1987, it designated two main routes taken by the Cherokee during the removal process. Historically, many routes used during removal were not well documented at the time and were not included in the designation. Since that time, researchers have identified other routes taken by Native Americans during the relocation process. A feasibility study, ordered by Congress and released in September 2007, did find additional trail segments. This bill, pursuant to the feasibility study, adds additional land components, round up routes and water routes to the Trail of Tears Historic Trail. I am happy to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation.

Not only will these additional designations help to raise awareness about this tragic chapter of our Nation's history, but will provide many across Indian country with better access to their past and collective history. The Trail of Tears crystallized the idea of race as a determining factor in American public policy and documents the first federally legislated forced removal of Native people from traditional homelands. The physical route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and historic sites associated with the Trail and removal reflect the lifestyles of Native people at the time of removal, the harshness of the journey West and their remarkable adaptation to new surroundings. Thousands of Native Americans in Oklahoma and elsewhere will be able to visit these sites and identify with their ancestors' desperate journey westward.

Madam Speaker, though this bill calls awareness to one of the most tragic events in

our Nation's history, it also is ultimately a story of survival. The tribes that were relocated have once again established themselves and remain strong. This achievement only helps exemplify the astonishing fortitude of American Indians.

Again, I thank Congressman WAMP for introducing this crucial legislation. As the only Native American currently serving in Congress, I am proud to support the intention of this bill and I urge Members to vote for its passage.

COMMENDING THE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1287.

Several of my colleagues and I have had the honor in recent years of joining former Senator Bob Dole to greet groups of World War II veterans arriving at the World War II Memorial for the first time through a grassroots, nonprofit organization called Honor Flight.

I introduced House Resolution 1287 earlier this year to express our country's appreciation to the Honor Flight Network, its founders Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina, its volunteers and its donors across the country who make this moving experience possible for our Nation's World War II veterans. By introducing this resolution, I also seek to call attention to this worthy organization in the hope that more of my colleagues as well as those watching and reading at home will support Honor Flight in their communities.

Many World War II veterans are in their 80s and 90s and are unable, physically or financially, to visit our Nation's capital and see the World War II Memorial, which is a beautiful tribute to their service, sacrifice and victory over 60 years ago. We are losing these veterans at a rate of 900 each day. Working against time to say "thank you," Honor Flight uses chartered or commercial flights to enable World War II veterans to see the Memorial created in their honor.

Today, we commend the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers and donors now operating in over 30 States who honor World War II veterans by making it possible for them to experience our Nation's gratitude for their service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I have received authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 for two projects in California's 44th Congressional District which are described as follows:

Requesting Member: Congressman KEN CALVERT.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: Standards Development—Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, NAVY.