

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REO
KIRKLAND JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Brewton and the state of Alabama lost a dear friend last week, and I rise today to honor Reo Kirkland Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

A native and life-long resident of Brewton, Reo graduated from T.R. Miller High School and earned his bachelor's degree at Auburn University. He completed his education by earning his law degree from Jones School of Law.

Reo went on to serve as assistant district attorney and founded the firm, Reo Kirkland Attorney at Law. He also served two terms as an Alabama state senator and was the long-time chairman of the Escambia County Democratic Executive Committee.

An avid outdoorsman, Reo was a certified hunting guide in Maine and a delegator for the Alabama Wildlife Commission.

The Brewton Standard remembered Reo Kirkland as one of the "last great Southern lawyers." History, perhaps, will most remember Reo as the delegate who nominated his mother for president during Alabama's roll call vote at the 1984 Democratic National Convention. Friends and colleagues remembered him as a passionate prosecutor, and District Attorney Steve Billy said Reo was "one of the finest prosecutors in the state."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Reo Kirkland Jr. will be dearly missed by his family—his son, Reo Kirkland III; his brother, Karl Kirkland; and his sister, Jean—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

NATIONAL CAPITAL SECURITY
AND SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 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.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in full support of the recent passage of the amended version of H.R. 6842, the National Capitol Security and Safety Act. This legislation will finally bring the District of Columbia into compliance with the Second Amendment rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

On June 26, 2008, the United States Supreme Court correctly struck down a 32-year-

old ban on handgun possession and ownership in the District of Columbia in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. This handgun ban required that all firearms within the city boundaries be registered, all owners be licensed, and prohibited the registration of handguns after September 24, 1976, making it one of the strictest in the country.

The District Council responded to the *Heller* decision with a temporary, emergency law that made some advances in returning gun rights to District residents but, unfortunately, retained a number of discriminatory obstacles to handgun possession. H.R. 6842, as amended, will revise the District of Columbia code to remove these unnecessary and unconstitutional hurdles to gun ownership. Among other things, the legislation will amend the registration requirements so that they do not apply to handguns, remove arbitrary limits on ammunition and repeal some criminal penalties for carrying unlicensed handguns. In total, H.R. 6842 will allow residents of the District to finally exercise their right to bear arms in a responsible manner, without unnecessary government regulation.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have consistently co-sponsored legislation to end the DC handgun ban and to expand and preserve Second Amendment rights within the District. While I certainly appreciate the desire to consider rates of violent crime when crafting gun control legislation, our country is based on the premise that enforcement of our fundamental rights cannot be haphazard. Those rights, especially those clearly enumerated in the Bill of Rights, must not be dismissed or diluted.

As a hunter and lifelong gun rights advocate, I applaud the passage of the amended version of H.R. 6842 and I look forward to Senate action on this measure.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Resolution 45, which expresses the consent and approval of Congress to an inter-state compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Great Lakes are among America's most valued natural resources, containing over 90 percent of our fresh surface water. Effective management of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin is crucial to protect against harmful diversion of water that causes environmental damage and depletion of the lakes.

I do not believe this bill has undergone a thorough, rigorous vetting process to ensure that its provisions provide strong enough protections against privatization, commercialization, and exportation of Great Lakes water. While that this legislation does take important steps toward ensuring protection of the lakes, I have several unanswered concerns with the bill as it stands now.

Any bill seeking to protect the Great Lakes from diversion efforts must have strong language protecting against the commercialization and diversion of Great Lakes water in the international trade system. I am deeply con-

cerned that this bill defines Great Lakes water as a "product," potentially subjecting it to international trade law obligations under NAFTA, GATT, or the WTO. Furthermore, by exempting diversions of water in containers smaller than 5.7 gallons, how does this bill protect Great Lakes water from privatization claims from bottled water companies and other large commercial entities? The International Joint Commission, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Trade Representative have failed to provide answers to these questions.

I also believe strongly that any Great Lakes Compact must ensure full, active participation of the Tribes in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin in any decision-making process. Language in this legislation requires "reasonable notice" to Tribes for commentary and an obligation to "inform" the Tribes of meetings and hearings regarding diversion of water. The intention of this language is right, but it must be stronger to ensure Tribes have a strong voice in any decisions related to the Great Lakes Basin.

The Great Lakes Compact is a critical piece of legislation, concerning one of America's most precious natural resources. We must hold it to the highest standards to ensure that the environmental and economic integrity of the lakes are protected in a manner that is inclusive of all stakeholders. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation until these concerns have been resolved.

REVEREND EARL ABEL POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend and colleague the late Reverend Earl Abel of Kansas City, MO. In life, Reverend Earl Abel labored tirelessly for nearly 50 years as a minister, a community leader and mentor to countless members of the Kansas City community. When Reverend Abel founded the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ he only had 11 members. Today, his church has grown into one of the larger ministries in the Kansas City community. Under his leadership the church has built two senior citizens residences, a Senior Activity Center and a church camp for both youths and adults in the larger Kansas City community.

The Kansas City community was so central to Rev. Abel's heart, that in addition to the good works his church was engaged in. He personally took on many other important roles to serve the community that he loved including Chaplain for the Kansas City Police Department, President of the Baptist Ministers Union, and member of the Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention. In 1999, he was appointed to the Appellate Judicial Commission by Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan. Rev. Abel spent his life building good will and love and now it is my privilege to ask for your help to honor this man by naming a post office in the heart of Kansas City in his name.

My fellow members of Congress, I urge you to support H.R. 6198 which will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Cleveland Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Reverend Earl Abel Post Office Building."

**RYAN HAIGHT ONLINE PHARMACY
CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF
2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House considered and passed H.R. 6353, the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act. This legislation will ensure that purchasers of potentially dangerous prescription drugs are evaluated face-to-face by a physician, removing the potentially dangerous anonymity inherent in the current federal regulations which allow prescriptions to be written based on a telephone call or online questionnaire.

To be sure, online pharmaceuticals makes it possible for millions of Americans to conveniently and affordably access the prescription medications on which they rely. However, the online system of prescribing and dispensing medication has been accompanied by a disturbing increase in the level of harm and death due to prescription drugs. This increase is, in large part, a result of the current federal guidelines that allow online pharmacies to write prescriptions for patients based on a telephone conversation with a physician or a simple online questionnaire, empowering patients to diagnose and prescribe for themselves virtually any drug and dosage they desire. Without the necessary information for adequate oversight by a qualified physician, many people have been exposed to dangerous and, all too often, deadly medications.

In response, many states have enacted laws requiring that individuals seeking access to powerful medications such as Vicoden and Xanax be evaluated in person before being prescribed a controlled substance. For example, in my state of Minnesota, the legislature and governor have recently worked together to establish Justin's Law. Named for a vibrant young man whose bright future was cut short by an overdose of prescription painkillers obtained through an internet pharmacy without a physician visit, Justin's Law has already been implemented to hold illicit online pharmacies accountable.

That said, the lives affected by online pharmacies are not limited to a particular state, and moreover, the interstate nature of the commerce conducted via the internet warrants that legislation be enacted at the federal level to help protect online consumers. As a result, I applaud my colleague, Congressman STUPAK for introducing H.R. 6353. This legislation, of which I am a cosponsor, will help stem the dangerous tide of controlled substances being dispensed without adequate supervision.

**CREDIT CARD HOLDERS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights Act.

It is all too common for hard-working Americans to be in debt because of credit cards. Many of my constituents struggle from paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. Because of this they use credit cards as a means of acquiring the necessities of life, such as buying food for their family or paying utility or medical bills.

For most Americans, the language credit card companies use is difficult to understand, so most do not know what they are getting themselves into when they sign up to receive a credit card.

That is why I am pleased that my colleagues are considering H.R. 5244—the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights Act—of which I am a proud cosponsor.

This legislation gives rights back to the consumer, such as protecting them from arbitrary interest rate increases, early pre-payment penalties, and excessive fees.

This bill will help those Americans by requiring credit card companies to mail bills twenty-five days in advance before the bill is due and to notify the cardholders forty-five days in advance of any interest rate increase.

Today is a victory for the consumers as we have finally leveled the playing field between cardholders and the credit card companies.

**FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT
OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6897, Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008. Congress must recognize the veteran status of the 250,000 Filipinos who served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II.

In 1941, President Roosevelt drafted 140,000 Filipinos into the Service. They were promised US citizenship in exchange for fighting for our country. Unfortunately, in 1946 they were denied citizenship and Veteran's benefits. It was a post-war cost-cutting measure that President Truman said he later regretted signing into Law.

We have a chance to right a wrong that has been allowed to continue for over 60 years. We must act quickly to honor these brave men before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to join me and vote in support of H.R. 6897, Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008.

**COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN EN-
ERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act.

Every day my constituents contact my office wanting to know what Congress is doing to lower gas prices. Many of these families work full-time. Some even have more than one job. Yet as a result of skyrocketing energy costs and a weakening economy, they are struggling to make ends meet.

Madam Speaker, there is something fundamentally wrong with our energy policy when hardworking American families are increasingly burdened by escalating energy prices, while oil companies continue to reap record profits. Congress has a duty to move past short-sighted solutions, and pass this legislation which will provide the first steps to ending this inequity and our Nation's addiction to oil.

While I have serious concerns about the expansion of offshore drilling, I recognize however, that this compromise is needed to address the expiration of the moratorium on Outer Continental Shelf drilling and move the other important provisions in the legislation forward.

While it is far from perfect, H.R. 6899 is a necessary and realistic compromise that in addition to preventing drilling only three miles off our shores, will help expand our domestic energy supply, encourage energy efficiency and conservation, and reduce our Nation's dependence on oil.

H.R. 6899 will address our energy crisis by the temporary release of almost 10 percent of the oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is expected to have the direct result of lower gas prices in the short-term.

The bill also invests in renewable energy technology by establishing a package of renewable energy tax credits and creating a renewable electricity standard, thereby giving us the tools and the incentives to break free of our dependence on oil. It is estimated that the renewable electricity standard will save American consumers up to \$18 billion by 2020. In addition, the tax credits will help spur the creation of new, green jobs and encourage the next generation of job development here in America.

The bill also ensures that oil companies will pay their fair share of royalties on their drilling leases. Due to errors made by the Department of the Interior in 1998 and 1999, many oil companies who were granted leases during that time were exempt from paying royalties. This has amounted to \$15 billion in lost revenues to the American taxpayer. There is absolutely no reason that oil companies should continue to cash in while American families can't even make ends meet. By rectifying this error, H.R. 6899 will ensure that the Interior Department will be able to collect the payments owed to hardworking Americans.

Given the current crisis, it is necessary we take the first step to reach our larger goal of energy independence. The Democratic leadership has wisely rejected the Republican Party's shortsighted call for "drill-only" legislation,