

5,943 individuals that applied for assistance at the congressional mobile office would not have been possible.

The following police officers helped ensure the accessibility and effectiveness of the congressional mobile office:

Randall L. Derr—Senior Police Officer
Ricky W. Dalme—Sergeant of Police
Marvin Dutton—Sergeant of Police
Eldon Harris—Lieutenant of Police
Gregory Gillespie—Sergeant of Police
David L. Knatt—Police Officer
Gary L. Schaefer—Police Officer

HONORING MICHAEL J. CRITELLI

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute today to Michael J. Critelli—one of our foremost leaders in corporate America today. Mike has been at the helm of Pitney Bowes for over a decade and with the company for almost 30 years. At the end of this year, he steps down so on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to recognize his years of service.

Mike has been a leader at Pitney Bowes for many years in a number of positions. He's been the company's general counsel, chief personnel officer, president of Pitney Bowes Financial Services as well as chief executive officer and chairman of the board and is currently the executive chairman of the board. He's been a business leader not only in his home State of Connecticut, where Pitney Bowes is headquarters in my district in Stamford, but also on issues here in Washington, DC.

Mike spent a tremendous amount of time working on postal reform legislation and his work was exemplary. He helped to form the Mailing Industry CEO Council, an organization of over a dozen leaders of major mailing industry companies. As CEO of Pitney Bowes as well as chairman of the Mailing Industry CEO Council, he came to town frequently to meet with me and other members of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and many others to champion the postal reform legislation and need for reform. His commitment to this issue was extraordinary. And in the second session of the 109th Congress, we saw the legislation pass the House and Senate and it became law.

One of the people there with President Bush—front and center—when the President signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act into law was Mike Critelli. It was the culmination of years of effort by those of us in Congress but also people in the mailing industry like Mike Critelli. He was, almost without a doubt, the single most dedicated corporate executive working with us in Congress to enact that legislation. He knew it was what the U.S. Postal Service needed in order to survive and thrive for the long term and he was dedicated to helping get it done.

Mike has also been committed to helping retain jobs in Connecticut. At a Government Reform Committee hearing several years ago on postal reform, Mike Critelli testified. He made a decision to move some jobs to an old industrial city in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He could have moved some of these folks elsewhere

but he knew that Bridgeport needed the jobs. That not only speaks volumes for who Mike Critelli is, but it also speaks volumes for the commitment of Pitney Bowes and its leaders to the well-being of our State.

Mike's commitment to our community has been a constant for over two decades during which he has volunteered in a range of advocacy roles for organizations in Connecticut. For example, he has been active on transportation issues including most recently serving as chairman of Governor Rell's Commission on the Reform of the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

I am grateful for Mike's dedication to the people of our community and the important issues affecting them. Please join me in recognizing Michael J. Critelli as he retires this year.

CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act. This bill makes critical investments in America to provide we have the necessary resources to secure our nation, to prepare and respond to natural disasters, and to maintain the uninterrupted flow of important government services and functions.

This continuing resolution includes three annual appropriations bills to operate important security programs in the departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Administration. With the nation engaged in military conflict both in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is important that Congress provide the necessary investments in the Defense Department for the American men and women engaged in both battles. As a step-mother of a uniformed soldier and a wife to a former Marine, I am particularly pleased with the increased investment of \$28.4 million over current funding; among other important items for our troops this will address equipment shortfalls, supply quality training, and provide top of the line medical care to our troops.

The bill increases our investment in Homeland Security by \$2.3 billion over 2008 levels. Most of this increase is in the area of grants to states and localities for much needed security programs such as those for urban areas, states, transit systems, fire, interoperable communications and emergency management performance. Key programs in customs and border protection and the Transportation Security Administration which monitor and safeguard our borders, trade and transport systems will also receive increases.

The bill also makes investments in veterans' programs and in military construction, providing a \$9 billion increase in funding. We all appreciate and honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans, and these investments will fund increases for medical care and will improve access to medical services for all vet-

erans. It also continues a critically needed quality of life initiative to improve living conditions for training soldiers and marines and to upgrade substandard medical treatment facilities.

In addition to these three regular appropriations bills, our legislation addresses important emergency needs. With hurricanes in the gulf coast, floods in the Midwest, and wildfires in the west, America has experienced another year of dramatic weather-related disasters. Our bill makes a \$22.9 billion investment to not only respond to these specific events but also to ensure our preparation and readiness for future emergencies. These funds will help rebuild damaged highways, levees and other public infrastructure; help communities revitalize their damaged economies; and provide important social services to affected residents.

Of course, it is equally important that we take the opportunity of this continuing resolution to address certain important domestic needs. Accordingly, this bill makes several important investments to directly benefit hard-working families, as well as strengthen the American economy. These investments include the following increases over current funding:

\$1 billion for Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to provide mothers and their children with proper nutrition to cover increased costs as more families struggle with the economic downturn and rising food costs;

\$23.5 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to prevent nearly 70,000 low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens, from losing access to food;

\$2.5 billion for the Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP) to help families pay rising home energy bills, assisting an additional 2 million households and raising the average grant from \$355 to \$550;

\$2.5 billion for Pell Grants to prevent cuts to student aid midway through the school year;

\$2.9 billion to help the Census Bureau to ramp up operations for the 2010 Census; and

\$7.5 billion to support \$25 billion in loans to help American automakers retool their factories to build more fuel-efficient vehicles.

While I am pleased the continuing resolution addresses these important issues, I am disappointed that it does not include another important matter—an extension of the drilling ban on the outer continental shelf. Although an extension of the ban had become routine in the annual appropriations bills, the current energy crisis has made that impossible this year. I trust congressional leaders in the next Congress will reach an agreement that addresses our energy needs while still providing continued environmental safeguards for our coastlines and coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are not happy that once again Congress has had to resort to a continuing resolution to fund the operations of the government. Unfortunately, the Congress was left with no choice but to proceed in this fashion when the President threatened to veto domestic spending bills that exceed his inadequate requests. Re-investing in America and in American families is the new Majority's priority; however, it clearly is not the priority of the Administration as evidenced by the President's budget request. Rather than engage president renown for his inflexibility, the new Majority has opted to work with the next administration to fund these important programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to secure our nation, invest in America, and respond and prepare for disasters.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which protects families across America from the confusing, deceptive, and unfair credit card practices. I believe that passage of this legislation is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the increased usage of credit cards among Latinos has resulted in more Latinos with credit card debt. Between 1992 and 2001, the share of Latino families with credit cards grew from 43 percent to 53 percent and the average credit card debt among Latinos increased by nearly 20 percent to \$3,700. Even worse, credit card issuers have profited by taking advantage of Latino families' need to rely on credit for everyday expenses. Credit card companies imposed an astounding \$18.1 billion in penalty fees on families carrying credit card balances. Seventy-seven percent of Latinos carry a balance on their credit cards, which makes them especially susceptible to credit card industry's unethical tricks and penalties.

Inequities in access to mainstream credit cards mean that Latinos are targeted by unscrupulous companies and are more likely than Whites to have credit cards with high interest rates. Because credit card companies can increase interest rates at any moment and can charge interest on debt that consumers have already paid on time, they have trapped vulnerable low-income Latino families in a never-ending cycle of debt.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights. We need to end unfair and arbitrary interest rate increases and protect vulnerable consumers from high-fee subprime credit cards. I look forward to working with my colleagues to protecting the financial security of consumers across our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RALPH REGULA, THE HONORABLE DEBORAH PRYCE AND THE HONORABLE DAVID HOBSON

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Ohio has been greatly blessed to have leaders like RALPH REGULA, DAVE HOBSON, and DEBORAH PRYCE working for them in the United States Congress. Their decades of hard work and outstanding service have made the state of Ohio a better place and have set an example for the rest of the Ohio Delegation. I am

proud to have had the opportunity to work with them on the issues affecting our state and our nation. RALPH REGULA has been a great example of service and statesmanship as the Dean of the Ohio Delegation. DAVE HOBSON has been a role model and mentor for me since I took office in 2003 and I appreciate his friendship and support. DEB PRYCE has been a graceful and determined leader for all Ohioans over her 16 years in Congress. I join the rest of my colleagues in congratulating RALPH REGULA, DAVE HOBSON, and DEBORAH PRYCE, on their service to their districts, our State, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and fellow member of the New Jersey delegation, Representative JIM SAXTON. Mr. SAXTON came to Congress nearly 24 years ago and since that time has served as a tireless advocate for the people of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District.

He has served as a role model to members of the delegation, including me, throughout his distinguished service. On the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. SAXTON worked to improve the quality of life for those who serve in the military and their families on the home front, and especially those who work with the Special Forces Command.

Mr. SAXTON has been a strong supporter of military bases across the country, especially Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. He will be remembered for his passionate and steadfast advocacy on behalf of his constituents and our state.

Mr. SAXTON has a tremendous record of environmental protection of New Jersey's beaches and coastline over many years. And we have worked closely together in passing the Highlands Conservation Act, which protects open space and water supplies vital to the entire Northeast.

His thoughtful and deliberative style serves as an example to other lawmakers and is a true testament to good government. Mr. SAXTON has always been known to do the "right thing," which has made him an example to his colleagues and endeared him to his constituents.

On a more personal level, JIM SAXTON has been a good friend and mentor, as he was to my predecessor, the late Dean A. Gallo. Like Dean Gallo, I have benefited from his knowledge and wisdom, his good humor and compassion, and I will surely miss him as a colleague.

The retirement of Congressman JIM SAXTON is a loss to the people of New Jersey and the U.S. Congress. His leadership and knowledge will be missed. I thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as I was thinking about what to say about my good friend BUD CRAMER, it occurred to me that the many things I could say would soon be forgotten.

But what I will remember is his friendship and the experiences we shared together.

A former constituent of mine, Johnny Cash, summed it up best in when he sang "Jim Wore a Tie Today." The lyrics of the song follow:

"Jim, I did everything that I could,
But your fever just wouldn't die down,
So I tied your horse to the wagon bed,
And last night I brought you to town.

"But when I got there you were gone Jim,
And there was nothin' nobody could do,
I bought you a suit and a tie Jim,
And today I wore one too.

"Jim I wore a tie today,
The first one that I ever wore,
And you'd have said I looked like a dummy,
Out of a dry goods store.

"Jim they said a lot of things,
But I don't know a thing they said,
My mind kept wanderin' off down the trail,
Back to the times that we've had.

"And for gold on the cuff,
We've done everything in the book I guess,
And a lot they'd never thought up.

"Well Jim, you're ridin' on ahead,
I guess that's how it has be,
But when you reach those streets paved with gold Jim,
Stake a claim out for me . . ."

CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3402, the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act. After years of deceptive and abusive marketing practice by the calling card industry, I am pleased to be here today to offer protection to our constituents who rely on the cards to stay in touch with their loved ones. The victims of calling card fraud are often the most vulnerable among us—they are low-income, immigrants, military families—in short, the ones who can least afford it. I think this is sensible legislation, and I thank my colleague and friend Congressman ELIOT ENGEL for all of his hard work to enact this bill.

I am proud to represent a diverse constituency and am proud to support the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act to crack down on those abuses. Too many people are lured in by promises of cheap overseas calls but end up getting less than half of what they paid