

through 90 on March 4, 2008. My plane was delayed due to bad weather in Atlanta.

I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 88, H.R. 1143—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park and for other purposes “aye”;

Rollcall vote No. 89, H.R. 1311—To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, “aye”; and

Rollcall vote No. 90, H.R. 816—To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project, “aye”.

IN HONOR OF SIXTY-THREE YEARS
OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
AT TORAH ACADEMY OF MIN-
NEAPOLIS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the teachers, parents, and community of the Torah Academy in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. This weekend, at its annual banquet celebration, the Torah Academy will celebrate 63 years of educational excellence and service to children from pre-school through the eighth grade.

Founded in 1945, the Torah Academy provides a well-rounded and highly regarded education in the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as Judaic studies. The teachers and staff there are committed to providing a nurturing environment and to instilling in students a lifelong love of learning.

Torah Academy depends upon the dedicated service of so many fine individual volunteers and corporate citizens to ensure that it meets its mission of educational excellence. At their banquet this weekend, the community will honor two in particular: Rabbi Joshua Borenstein, the Academy's outstanding Executive Director, and King Solutions, Inc.

King, founded by Meyer Bolnick and Mike Patterson, will be honored as the Business of Distinction as “a business built on strong values, and a role model of responsibility and commitment to the community.” Community service is an integral part of the work that King does in the Twin Cities area.

In addition to Rabbi Borenstein, who has served the Torah Academy community for a full decade, the Academy depends on many fine staff, including Rabbi Binyomin Ginsberg, Dean, and Mrs. Ginger Vance, Principal. I join the Minneapolis-area community this weekend in commending these outstanding educators and active citizens for their commitment to the core values and mission of Torah Academy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF ADRIENNE SWENSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a good friend, who was one of Sonoma County's notable environmental activists and a conscience for social justice, Adrienne Swenson. Adrienne was 81 when she died in January of pulmonary disease. Adrienne touched the lives of thousands through her successful environmental conservation efforts, her commitment to social justice, and her work for the Democratic Party.

I knew Adrienne through all of these arenas and agree with her friends and colleagues, who are universal in their praise.

“She was a remarkable woman. She was a person committed to the idea that society could be improved,” said David Thatcher, who along with others, helped Adrienne found the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County. “She was a tower of strength in so many ways.”

But what was so remarkable about Adrienne was that in all her interests she always had a wider context in mind. Her work with the local United Nations community, her commitment to the peace process, her participation on the county planning commission—she integrated them all in the interest of trying to make a better society.

Born in San Francisco, Adrienne spent her life in California, except for 2 years in Spain when she and her husband, Len, and their three children lived what she once called “the good life,” traveling about Europe, studying art and learning Spanish.

A trip to Yosemite later introduced her to what became her favorite activities—family camping, backpacking, and birding. This led to her lifelong devotion to environmental issues, which interest she shared with her husband, a longtime Sierra Club leader.

Later, Adrienne served on the Manhattan Beach City Council while living in southern California, and on the Sonoma County Planning Commission after moving back to northern California. “She really set a standard,” said Bill Kortum, a member of the board of supervisors, which appointed her. “She was always very well informed.”

Politically, Adrienne was active in the Santa Rosa Democratic Club and served on the Democratic Central Committee for nearly 20 years.

But where Adrienne really left her legacy was the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County.

“She had an incredible sense of justice in the face of overwhelming injustice,” says Elizabeth Stinson, the center's director. “She worked tirelessly for more than 30 years in every capacity you can think of.”

She was vehemently anti-war and opposed the occupation of Iraq. Standing on the corner at Mendocino and College avenues almost every week with a group of women, all dressed in black, she protested until she could no longer stand.

Madam Speaker, Adrienne Swenson would want us to carry on her work here in Congress, to be inspired by her tenacity and will-

ingness to confront difficult subjects, knowing the world is better for her contributions to it.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GOALS OF A
NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the goals of a National Siblings Day for all Americans, a day to honor our sisters and brothers for the many ways in which they enrich our lives. This occasion would give us the opportunity to show appreciation for our siblings, much the same way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated, and completes the celebration of the whole family. One of my Manhattan constituents, Claudia Evart, has worked tirelessly to encourage everyone to honor their siblings on April 10th each year.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evart's older brother, Alan, died in an accident in his home. He was 36 years old.

Siblings make an important contribution to who we are. Often, when our parents are gone, our siblings are our only remaining family. And, sometimes, as in the case of my constituent Claudia Evart, Siblings Day will help us remember siblings whom we have lost at an early age.

I applaud these past 12 years of hard work by Claudia Evart who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings with her work to establish a National Siblings Day. Her inspired work should serve as a lesson to us all. Since 1998, 31 governors have issued gubernatorial proclamations in their states for Siblings Day: AL, AR, AZ, CO, CT, FL, IL, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, WV, WA, WI and WY. Therefore, I now call on the Congress to recognize the importance of contributions of all family members, including our siblings, by supporting the goals of a National Siblings Day for all Americans.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that yesterday Congress was able to pass the long overdue Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, finally vowing to end the discrepancy of health care and treatment available to patients with mental illness and addiction disorders. I commend Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. RAMSTAD for their steadfast and courageous efforts to bring this bill, and even more so, this issue, to the forefront of this Congress. This bill seeks to establish parity in coverage between mental health care and other forms of health care, ensuring greater access to treatment.

There are countless stories of Americans, including my own constituents in Ohio's 9th District, who are struggling not only with their mental illness, but with the costs of trying to treat it. Our local jails are jammed with inmates who present with serious mental illness as our sheriffs become innkeepers for the untreated mentally ill. Mental illness affects the majority of homeless in our Nation. Treating those who suffer from these cruel illnesses is long overdue. Following are accounts that show a striking difference among my constituents (whose names have been changed for privacy reasons) who have the necessary health coverage to help manage their illness, with those who do not.

Carol is a young woman not yet 30 years old, who had managed to hide her paranoid schizophrenia for several years with treatment until a recent breakdown exposed it in a very public way. She'd lost her job—and thus her health insurance—and was struggling. She had no way to afford COBRA payments, and without health insurance, had to stop treatment. The voices in her head told her to eat bananas and drink beer, and then to drive. After following these instructions, she was picked up by the local police for driving under the influence. It was then that her parents became aware of her true condition. Because she had no health insurance, they could not find a place which would admit her for proper treatment. Her court case for the DUI was placed on suspension because, in her state of psychotic crisis, she could not participate in her own defense. Her parents finally found a counselor through the community mental health system, but her medical bills continue to mount.

Mary's situation is similarly devastating. A single mother raising four children, Mary works in a job which does not offer health insurance. Although she has purchased a private policy, it is very limited and has additional restrictions on mental health care. Mary's teenage son began to experience severe mental health problems and was diagnosed with schizophrenia. She found care in a private facility, but reached her insurance limit quickly. Now without the ability to pay for his care, she has found it very difficult to successfully continue his treatment. He has since encountered legal difficulty, and has been placed in a juvenile justice center.

With comprehensive health coverage, Bob's situation is much more fortunate, and a model for how things should be. Bob is a professional with a well-paying job and a young family. However, a crisis sent him into a downward spiral ending in depression. His full insurance coverage afforded him the ability to "shop around" as they struggled to find him proper treatment. Bob eventually sought help through a private inpatient treatment facility. Following his stay, he and his family have continued the intensive therapy he was prescribed, which has enabled him to return to a life of productivity and has restored a sense of normalcy in his family.

The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act will go a long way in ensuring that there are more success stories like Bob's, and fewer situations like that of Carol and Mary. And, by breaking down the barriers to treatment, this bill will also help erase the unfortunate stigma that prevents those in need

of mental health and addiction treatment from seeking the care they need.

The Wellstone bill moves America forward and brings hope to millions who know the scourge of mental illness.

HONORING DETECTIVE LUIS
RODRIGUEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the contribution of law enforcement to the community goes well beyond arrests and convictions, and if you are lucky, on occasion you come across someone with that extra sense of commitment to the motto "protect and serve". Detective Luis Rodriguez, a 20-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, is the Community Affairs Officer for the 50th Precinct, the liaison to schools, civic groups, tenant associations and houses of worship and Detective Rodriguez is one such officer who is always ready to go above and beyond and to offer a helping hand those in need.

Detective Rodriguez defines his job in terms of what he can do for the community by bringing human warmth to people who are facing stressful situations. Whenever anything occurs in the community whether a serious issue or a simple question, everyone knows that they can call Luis. We don't even need to use a title or last name, he is known simply as Luis. We know that we can count on him for guidance or to be there when needed.

He has had many awards for his work and credits his parents for raising him with a lot of trust. He is passing on this trust to two of his favorite people in the world, his children, Caitlin and Steven.

For his good work with the community, the Riverdale Jewish Community Council is awarding him the Martin Rollins Interfaith Brotherhood Award. I understand that Detective Rodriguez is retiring this summer and I want him to know that the community will miss him and that he can always count on us for a helping hand if ever he needs one.

THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2009

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased that the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Budget Resolution, approved by the Committee on the Budget, recognizes the critical importance of meeting our Nation's infrastructure investment needs, even while achieving a balanced budget by 2012. The Budget Resolution vigorously rejects the short-sighted policies of the President's budget, which cuts virtually every infrastructure investment program within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including

highways, public transit, airports, Amtrak, wastewater treatment, and water resources development.

In contrast to the harmful cuts proposed by the administration, the resolution fully funds highway, transit, and highway safety programs at the levels originally authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The resolution rejects both the negative \$1 billion adjustment for Revenue Aligned Budget Authority, and the administration's proposal to cut highway and transit funding by an additional \$1 billion below the authorized levels, which would be detrimental to short-term economic stimulus efforts, as well as long-term economic growth.

For the Airport Improvement Program, AIP, the resolution rejects the \$765 million cut proposed by the administration, and instead provides the full amounts authorized in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2881), as approved by the House last year. Specifically, the proposed budget provides \$3.9 billion for AIP in FY 2009, increasing to \$4.1 billion by FY 2011. This funding will allow the AIP program to keep pace with inflationary cost increases, and begin to address the investment gap in airport safety and capacity needs.

For Amtrak, the resolution rejects the \$525 million cut proposed by the administration, which would essentially shut down our national passenger rail system, and instead increases funding to meet the costs of Amtrak's new labor agreement, pursuant to Presidential Emergency Board 242.

For environmental infrastructure, the resolution rejects the administration's proposed cut to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, CWSRF, program, the primary Federal program for funding wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the Nation. A year ago, the President requested \$687.5 million in capitalization grants for CWSRFs for FY 2008. At that time, it was the lowest level requested by any administration since the creation of the program. For FY 2009, the administration requests a pitiful \$555 million, a 20 percent cut from last year's appropriation of \$689 million. The administration's proposal puts at risk the water quality gains achieved in recent decades, and the resolution correctly rejects this cut.

Finally, the resolution rejects the administration's proposal to cut funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by \$845 million in FY 2009, and instead provides increased funding to begin to address the growing backlog of water resources development projects, including those authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure firmly believes that infrastructure investment is fundamental to stimulating and sustaining long-term economic growth. Therefore, I am pleased that the budget resolution includes an Infrastructure Investment Reserve Fund, which will accommodate legislation to "Rebuild America" in FY 2009.

I look forward to working with Chairman SPRATT on continued improvements to our Nation's infrastructure, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.