

I have been fortunate enough to have had the privilege to visit Israel on several occasions, and have seen the struggles Israelis face daily. However, I have also seen their perseverance and determination to create a peaceful and prosperous state and this gives me hope for future peace in the region.

I would again like to congratulate Israel on 60 years of freedom and independence and I look forward to many more years of working together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I have discovered that on February 13, 2008, my vote on rollcall vote No. 48 did not register in the voting system.

On this vote, I voted in favor of ordering the previous question on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, due to the recent death of a family friend and my attendance at his funeral service, I was unable to vote on three measures on the House floor on March 31, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3352, Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007. I would have also voted "yes" on H.R. 2675, Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts Act, and "yes" on H. Con. Res. 302, Supporting the Observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF FRANK FARMER AND DON WESSEL AS CHARTER MEMBERS TO THE OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two men who have spent many years serving their community in Springfield, Missouri, as charter members of the Board of Trustees of the Ozarks Technical Community College. Frank Farmer and Don Wessel both enjoyed long and distinguished careers in private business before being selected by their neighbors to serve on the newly created Board of Trustees, following the creation of the school in April 1990. They have each been reelected to consecutive terms since then; at the end of this month, both men will be ending their tenure of service.

Farmer and Wessel helped shape the growth and direction of a school that serves

the students of 13 public school districts in southwest Missouri—and far beyond that. The growth of the school has been nothing short of a phenomenon, with enrollment this year topping more than 10,000 students. OTC, as it is known to many local students and residents, is also moving forward on plans to expand its operation to a second campus in Ozark, Missouri, with an eye on affording greater accessibility to its growing student body.

From its modest beginnings in central Springfield at the old vocational-technical school, OTC has blossomed into a modern campus that has helped revitalized center Springfield and help train its local youth.

From the beginning, Farmer and Wessel led the way in developing the infrastructure and educational leadership OTC would depend upon for its spectacular growth. First they hired an effective president in Norman Myers. The board of trustees, led by president Wessel from 1992 to 1994 and Farmer from 1994 to 1996, embarked on a plan to build new classroom buildings and greatly expand the number and diversity of available courses available to students.

Farmer's background in education includes service on the Willard Board of Education, on which he also served as president. Journalist, author and dairyman, Farmer has lent his experience and expertise to several public boards and charities, while attending to his duties as the editorial page editor of the Springfield News-Leader before his retirement there.

Wessel is a well-known car dealer and philanthropist, who has been active in the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Cox Medical Centers, and has served on virtually every public and civic board in the Springfield area.

To Mr. Farmer and Mr. Wessel, I wish to extend a heartfelt "thank you and well done" for their untiring work over the last two decades. Their unflagging efforts have made the Springfield area a better place in which to live, and the Ozarks Technical Community College a beacon of educational excellence for the entire region.

HONORING PATRICK WAYNE GUTHRIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Wayne Guthrie of Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Patrick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick Wayne Guthrie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Fiscal Year 2009 Democratic Budget Resolutions.

Once again this year, the President's budget proposal made a number of cynical choices and cut or eliminated programs that make a real difference in people's lives. The President's budget calls for more than \$1 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans over 10 years at the expense of vital domestic programs that benefit millions of people. The President's cuts include \$479 billion of Medicare cuts, and \$94 billion in cuts to Medicaid over 10 years; more than \$18 billion over 5 years in new fees for veterans and military retirees; cuts to EPA grants that help protect public health and maintain environmental quality; and the elimination of several state and local law enforcement programs, including Byrne Grants and COPS funding.

The President has already taken a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion and turned it into a \$3.2 trillion deficit. Now the President wants to slash funding for crucial domestic programs while he continues to spend \$10.3 billion a month for the war in Iraq—a war that has already cost more than \$495 billion and which may cost more than \$3 trillion by the end of our involvement. This war has cost Americans far too much—most importantly, in terms of lives.

The President's budget also misses the boat by choosing not to fund programs which would stimulate economic growth and benefit all Americans. For example, the President's budget does not include much-needed increases for things such as rehabilitating our Nation's crumbling schools and highways, securing our ports, investing in renewable energy, and helping lower the cost of healthcare for millions of children and seniors. And I was also dismayed to see the number of cuts in the President's budget that come at the expense of our Nation's poorest citizens. To cite just one example, the budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grants which reduce poverty and provide assistance for individuals dealing with housing, health, nutrition, energy, and substance abuse problems.

I am proud that the Democratic budget resolutions restore sanity to our Nation's fiscal policy. Our budget increases veterans funding for 2009 by \$3.6 billion (8 percent) above current services; provides additional resources to address long-standing domestic priorities within a fiscally responsible framework, including increased funding for scientific innovation and energy initiatives, and education, training, and social services; and it rejects the President's

proposed cuts, including cuts to environmental protection, first responders, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It also makes room for the expansion of children's health insurance coverage, and includes reforms to improve Medicare for beneficiaries and reforms of the Higher Education Act to make college more affordable.

H. Con. Res. 312 is not perfect. I wish it included less spending on unnecessary, outdated weapons programs, and more spending on domestic priorities for relief for the millions of Americans who are struggling to make ends meet amidst higher energy, healthcare, and food costs; and for the people in our society who need the most help. However, I am grateful to Chairman SPRATT for crafting a budget that rejects the President's cuts.

I am also proud to support the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute, which provides over \$550 billion for domestic non-military discretionary spending in FY09—over \$130 billion above President's request—to restore the President's harmful cuts. This budget contains a second economic stimulus package that would include an extension of unemployment insurance, an increase in assistance for food stamps, Medicare payments to states, and foreclosure relief, as well as over \$300 billion to rebuild our Nation's crumbling schools and roads. It also provides \$1.22 trillion to cut the poverty rate in half over the next decade, starting with redress and reconstruction for Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina. It does this by cutting down on waste, fraud in the Pentagon and by eliminating certain cold war weapons systems; as well by closing egregious corporate tax loopholes and rolling back the President's tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Chairman, the President's last budget is no more than a sad continuation of his failed fiscal policies. I'd like to thank Chairman SPRATT once again for all of his hard work on the budget, and am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues to support a budget that rejects the President's cuts and reinvests in our domestic priorities.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE T. DETITTA FOR 37 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO HAUPTMAN-WOODWARD MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. George T. DeTitta on 37 years of devoted service to Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute in Buffalo, NY. Dr. DeTitta's commitment to the study of human health is a brilliant example of dedication to community and fellowman. I commend Dr. DeTitta for his work and congratulate him on his return to the lab after 7 years serving as executive director and chief executive officer of Hauptman-Woodward.

Following his undergraduate work at Villanova University and completion of his Ph.D. in biochemistry and crystallography from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. DeTitta started out at Hauptman-Woodward as a postdoctoral research fellow in 1973. He then served as a

research scientist until 1999 when he became executive vice president. In 2000 he became executive director and chief executive officer.

During his time in leadership, Dr. DeTitta instated a new state-of-the-art structural biology center as well as the Center for High-Throughput Crystallization Laboratory, one of the Nation's 10 Protein Structure Initiative Centers. He also initiated and developed the University at Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Structural Biology Department. During Dr. DeTitta's tenure as CEO, he cultivated a new, young faculty at Hauptman-Woodward. His contribution to medical research and the study of disease is invaluable, and I commend him for his commitment to the success of Hauptman-Woodward.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Dr. George DeTitta for these great accomplishments and wish him and his family the best. His work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellowman with dedicated hearts and committed lives.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, on this, the 81st anniversary of his birth, I would like to join my colleagues in honoring Cesar Chavez, an individual that the late Senator Robert Kennedy called, "one of the heroic figures of our time." I also join the call to pass H. Res. 76, establishing a national holiday in his honor. San Jose, the city I represent in this great House, became the hometown to Cesar and his family beginning in 1939, and since then our community has always had a special place in its heart for Chavez.

A man of extraordinary accomplishments, Chavez continually called attention to the plight of those who, like him, had to struggle to attain their piece of the American dream. In remembering him today, we keep in mind those Americans working every day on farms in California, and around the country, to secure a better future for their family.

An American who heeded his Nation's call to service in World War II, Chavez remained committed to making his country stronger by empowering the least powerful of its citizens. A tireless organizer, he inspired countless individuals to participate in the democratic processes that make this country great.

As Americans, we do well to remember Cesar Chavez today. His calls for economic justice resonate in 2008 just as they did 50 years ago, and his early leadership on environmental issues serves as a reminder that we are all stewards of this land.

Cesar Chavez was, without a doubt, a true American hero. As we honor his life and remember his many achievements, we in this great body must not forget the hard-working Americans he fought for. Though no longer with us, Cesar Chavez's work continues.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF COLORECTAL CANCER AWARE- NESS MONTH

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House passed with unanimity a resolution recognizing March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I was regrettably detained in Minnesota due to the snowstorm which blanketed the Midwest. But had I been here, I would have joined my colleagues in supporting the resolution to raise awareness of this terrible disease.

While colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, it is not as well known or frequently discussed as many other forms of cancer. Whatever the reason for this relative obscurity, we must recognize the fact that both men and women are at risk for colorectal cancer and that while most cases occur after age 50, it can strike at any age. Most important of all, however, when detected in its earliest, most treatable stages, colorectal cancer has a 90 percent survival rate.

That being said, in 2000, the Prevent Cancer Foundation partnered with champions in Congress to designate and commemorate the very first National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Consequently, over the past 8 years, awareness of the disease has grown. Moreover, the American Cancer Society now currently funds 113 colon cancer research grants nationwide totaling more than \$62.1 million.

Nonetheless, while strides have been made against colorectal cancer, statistics show there is more work to be done. In fact, it is estimated that this year in Minnesota, 2,500 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 900 will die from the disease. However, screening tests can detect precancerous polyps, which, when removed, can stop colon cancer before it starts.

It is important that Congress support the observance of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in order to continue the progress that has already been made. Through increased awareness and education about this disease, a cornerstone of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, we can dramatically decrease deaths and limit the suffering this disease inflicts on the United States. As Dr. David Perdue, of the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health stated, "Bottom line, colorectal screening saves lives."

PRaising HOUSING PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP IN UNDERSERVED BROOKLYN COMMUNITIES

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give praise to the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) and NeighborWorks America for their commitment to form a partnership to promote homeownership in underserved neighborhoods in the great state of