

Mr. Speaker, there is more to be gained from the data collected by Landsat satellites, and there are still issues to be resolved to ensure that the nation can get the best return on its investment in Landsat's capabilities. However, I have no doubt that through support for the research, technology, and education required to improve Landsat data collection and applications, the returns from this national investment will continue to multiply. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the benefits derived from this important record of civil observations of the land, as collected from Landsat satellites, continue to expand for another 35 years.

URGING PRESIDENT BUSH TO SIGN INTO LAW H.R. 1922, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE AND THE SURROUNDING FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS AN OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA AND AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SYSTEM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for the House and Senate for passing H.R. 1922 and S. 1143, resolutions which designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and surrounding areas as an Outstanding National Area. As a proud cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman TIM MAHONEY, for introducing this important legislation and for the House leadership for bringing it to the floor for a vote on March 4, 2008. The Senate version of the bill, S. 1143, was introduced by Senator BILL NELSON and was passed by the Senate on April 10, 2008.

This legislation helps to promote the environmental and historic preservation of this important site and is a valuable step toward promoting these ideals throughout America. The historic significance attached to this lighthouse is truly remarkable. Besides guiding sailors through the nearby waters, it has also served as a symbol of local history and, indeed, our Nation's history as a whole.

The need for a lighthouse in Jupiter arose because of coastal reefs which made nautical activity very dangerous in the region. The lighthouse was designed by then Army Lieutenant George Mead, who would later lead the Union Army to victory as a general at the Battle of Gettysburg. Not only did its designer win a decisive Civil War battle, but the lighthouse was also later used extensively by Union sailors, further aiding the fight against secession. However, preliminary construction of the lighthouse proved to be an arduous task, with malaria, other diseases, and raids from some of the local populations taking a significant toll.

This lighthouse has served not only as a beacon for Florida's sailors but also as a reminder of the importance of our history. We must always remember the special circumstances concerning the history of the lands around the lighthouse. For centuries,

Native Americans lived and flourished in that area. On numerous occasions, they quartered runaway slaves and welcomed them into their communities. Today, the influence of these native peoples can still be felt. In fact, both Jupiter and Hobe Sounds' names were derived from the Hobe Indians who once lived in the region.

I would be remiss to not mention the natural beauty of the region. We are lucky to have such a pristine example of what Florida can offer to our nation's environmental diversity. The river itself is home to countless species of plant and animal life which live together in harmony and help to define the entire region. We have a duty to work toward preserving this land and all the species that thrive there.

The lighthouse at Jupiter Inlet and the surrounding area have a deep historical connection to our country and are a testament to the necessity of conservation efforts in our nation's varied habitats. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing this bill, and I urge the President to sign this into law and designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as a National Landscape System.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be a cosponsor of the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 and very pleased that a bipartisan agreement was reached to bring the bill up under suspension of the rules because it's essential for the House of Representatives to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Over 2,100 organizations across the country have told Congress that we have to stop the seven regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, over the last year because they threaten the loss of \$50 billion in Federal funding for key healthcare services. California's Governor Schwarzenegger has estimated that the regulatory changes will place an additional \$12.5 billion burden on California alone.

CMS has claimed these cuts are being imposed to eliminate waste from the Medicaid program. Far from addressing "inappropriate" payments, the seven regulations that CMS adopted will cut legitimate and necessary care for the most vulnerable in our society. Rather than using the power it already has to address waste, fraud, and abuse, CMS has taken the wrong turn by simply declaring that it will not pay for services.

CMS is saying "no" to rehabilitation services to help people with profound disabilities and medical conditions maintain or gain function.

CMS is saying "no" to case management services that help people get the medical care they need and are entitled to; this includes services for individuals with disabilities who are trying to move out of institutions and into the community.

CMS is saying "no" to specialized transportation to help children with disabilities get to and from school.

CMS is saying "no" to compensating safety-net hospitals for their critical services to the communities.

By adopting this bill, we will stop the implementation of these draconian regulations. The bill will require an HHS study and report on the regulations and their impacts on states, something CMS failed to do. For those concerned about waste, the bill provides additional funding for the Secretary to root out true fraud within the system. Finally, the costs of the bill are fully paid for by requiring electronic verification of assets for individuals applying for Medicaid.

With many of these regulations due to take effect very soon, it's critical that the House pass this bill today with a margin that will convince the President that a veto will not be sustained. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

FREEDOM FOR VICTOR YUNIER FERNANDEZ MARTINEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of Victor Yunier Fernandez Martinez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernandez Martinez, a young man of only 24 years of age and a member of the Popular Republican Party, was not even charged with committing any crime, even by the Orwellian standards and whims that make up the "legal system" in that enslaved island. Instead, he was hauled away to the gulag simply under the pretext of being a "pre-criminal social danger."

Agents of the tyranny's secret police said that they suspected Mr. Fernandez Martinez was involved in a graffiti campaign in Havana to promote freedom of expression. In fact, there was no link between Mr. Fernandez Martinez and these actions, but that did not stop the oppressive forces from detaining him and testing him for paint residue, which they did not find. This incident was cited 2 years later when he was sentenced to 3 years in the gulag because of the paranoid perception of the dictatorship that Mr. Fernandez Martinez, a peaceful dissident, is a "dangerous man."

Madam Speaker, Mr. Fernandez Martinez's mother has visited him in prison and has reported that even though conscious of the profound injustice of his incarceration he was in good spirits, a true testament of the spirit and drive of the heroes who are confined in the Cuban totalitarian gulag.

It is unconscionable that the world simply stands by, in the 21st century, and silently acquiesces to the torture, oppression and denigration of a noble people only 90 miles from the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, Victor Fernandez represents the best of the new generation in Cuba; a generation that has known only oppression and misery but that will play a central role in the transformation of Cuba from a totalitarian nightmare to a representative democracy with the rule of law for all of its citizens. We must demand the release of all those who are persecuted for their democratic ideals. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate

and unconditional release of Victor Yunier Fernandez Martinez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, when an act of random cruelty bewilders us and pulls us down, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterforce. They comfort and replenish the bereaved, and they remind us of the extraordinary selflessness our people are capable of. Nowhere has this been truer than in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Today, we are faced with the memory of the horrific events that occurred one year ago at Virginia Tech. It is no easier today, than it was then, to find the words to express the pain and sorrow that was felt across the Hokie nation.

Once again I stand here with a heavy heart and extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all the victims; especially those of Emily Hilscher and Rachel Hill, two victims from the Seventh District of Virginia. We will always be left with their spirit, energy and enthusiasm that will never die, but rather will live on in our memories forever.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT EMANUEL PICKETT

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett of Wallace, North Carolina, who lost his life while defending our Nation on April 6 during a mortar attack in Baghdad. In addition to his service in the North Carolina National Guard, Emanuel served as a captain with the Wallace, North Carolina, Police Department. He shall be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service.

Emanuel lived in Wallace his entire life, and throughout his 34 years, worked selflessly to make a positive difference in his community. Besides working as a captain with the Wallace Police Department, he also worked as a reserve deputy for the Duplin County Sheriff's office, where he led undercover drug investigations in several surrounding counties. Emanuel's giving spirit found many outlets. He also started a crime watch in his own neighborhood, helped to found a program to mentor kids without fathers, and coached youth basketball.

Emanuel will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Harry and Merlese Pickett, the youngest of six children. He was the loving father of three children—two daughters, ages 17 and 10, and a 14-year-old son. Over his lifetime, Emanuel earned countless friends. Because of his thirteen years of service with the police department and his stint of

more than 20 years employed at a local butcher shop, Emanuel owned one of the most recognizable faces in his community. He was so admired within his community, in fact, that his family has received condolences from thousands of people, including some that Emanuel helped send to prison.

Emanuel Pickett was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when his life was taken. His courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all. His life is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the life of Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett.

HONORING MARIAN BOLTON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marian Bolton, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, upon her upcoming retirement from the YMCA. Marian has devoted 38 years of extraordinary service to the "Y."

Marian, a nationally-recognized leader among her peers, built her career on a foundation of high principles and character. Currently the President and CEO of the YMCA of Central New Mexico, Marian has always been committed to incorporating the virtues of Character Counts, a national organization, into all programs and activities of the "Y." Because of her commitment to instilling trustworthiness, respect, caring, fairness, responsibility and citizenship into her staff, youth and their families, Marian is credited to a large extent with the success—personally, academically and professionally—of countless New Mexicans.

Marian also has been involved on the international stage with many non-profit agencies. A true champion for equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, culture or background, she has volunteered her time and unwavering efforts to conducting workshops in such areas as agency management, financial development, volunteerism, values and balancing personal and professional lives, to name only a few. Marian has also traveled to many countries whose youth are affected by such tragic conditions as poverty, hunger, slavery and lack of education and medical care. She has labored tirelessly to help improve their lives through the vital resources of the YMCA.

Marian Bolton is the consummate successful executive, who passionately cares about the lives of others. She has devoted her life to bringing as much motivation, education, training, tools for success, a positive attitude and, perhaps most importantly, hope for those striving for a better and brighter future. Her wisdom, experience and expertise is known across the globe, and she is highly sought after for consultation and training for those seeking to follow in her successful footsteps.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marian Bolton for her enormous contributions and accomplishments. Her shoes will be difficult to fill. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend our very best wishes to Marian for much happiness, success and fulfillment during the next stage of her life.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary. I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this resolution.

Israel proclaimed its statehood on May 14, 1948. On its first day of existence, the armies of five neighboring Arab countries declared war on Israel. The war for independence lasted about a year and resulted in armistice separate agreements, but not before 6,000 Israeli lives were lost.

Within 8 months of independence and before the war ended, Israel held its first national elections. Eighty-five percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots to create the first 120-seat Knesset or Parliament.

A state founded by refugees of and survivors of religious persecution, Israel has been and continues to be one of America's closest and most consistent allies.

This desert nation exists in a region that is, unfortunately, as steeped in violence as it is rich in history and tradition. We must do all that we can to ensure the security of the State of Israel and its people. Just as the United States is vital to the survival of Israel, I believe Israel is also vital to the survival of the United States. Our countries are linked together on so many levels.

Unfortunately, today, Israel has new and increasing threats to its security. Palestinian rockets have been fired from Gaza and hit Israeli communities on an almost daily basis. More than 200,000 Israeli citizens are within range of these Palestinian rockets. One of the saddest aspects of the terrorism situation in Israel is that it grabs the newspaper headlines and distracts the world from seeing the many advances made by Israel in democracy and human rights, science, agriculture, transportation, and so many other areas.

Despite nearly impossible odds, Israel's will to survive and her people's dogged determination have resulted in the development of a thriving democracy in one of the globe's least democratic regions. In fact, in only 60 years Israel has grown into a mature democracy that has produced some of the finest thinkers, scientists and entrepreneurs of the modern era.

We must never forget the conditions that, in many respects, laid the foundation for the creation of the State of Israel. After one of the most horrific atrocities in human history, the Holocaust, Israel was established as a home to a nearly decimated people. It is often said that we must "never forget" the horrors and the lessons of the Holocaust. And since April is Holocaust Remembrance month, this is an appropriate time to reaffirm our unyielding strong obligation to our friend and ally and vow to "never forget" our commitment to Israel.

The United States and the all of the nations of the world have a moral responsibility to ensure and support the existence of the State of Israel.

H. Con. Res. 322 recognizes the historical significance of Israel's 60th anniversary, supports Israel as it continues to pursue peace