

service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season."

I extend my appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in bringing some cheer to the lives of thousands of Maine children whose parents are serving our country. As they seek to expand this program throughout New England and to New York in 2008, I wish them all the best.

RECOGNIZING DENIM DAY IN NJ
2008

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the efforts of the Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA, of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to designate April 28, 2008 as Denim Day in New Jersey. This day-long observance is an important opportunity to raise awareness about sexual violence and end the 'blame-the-victim' mentality about rape that continues to impede justice for those attacked.

Unfortunately, appalling misconceptions about rape and sexual violence still exist and were on full display in the Italian Supreme Court decision that launched International Denim Day in 1998. In that case, the justices overturned a rape conviction because the woman wore jeans. They reasoned that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans because they were "tight," thereby implying her consent. After the decision, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans to work the next day.

Those Italian legislators were right to protest such an awful decision and inspired people around the world to speak out against similar injustices. We must do everything possible as a community and as a Nation of laws to stop rape and sexual assault and help survivors. That includes educating young men and women about consent, making clear that rape is the responsibility of the offender, not the victim, and eliminating the fear of shame and blame that prevents an estimated 9 in 10 rape victims from reporting an attack.

Today, on the first annual Denim Day in NJ, I commend the ongoing efforts of the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to accomplish these goals. I stand united with the YWCA, survivors of sexual assault, and their loved ones in observing this important day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on April 24, 2008, to attend the funeral of a fallen soldier who lost his life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 220 through 223.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 220—the Poe Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 221—the McNerny Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 222—the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2830 with instructions; and

"Aye" on rollcall vote 223—Passage of H.R. 2830.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DARRELL PAGE
OF BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Darrell Page of Dublin, North Carolina for his 11 years of service as President of Bladen Community College in Bladen County. Dr. Page's leadership, integrity, and insight have made a tremendous difference at this community college and in his community.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Darrell Page. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Dr. Page has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

During Dr. Page's tenure at the college, many positive developments and advancements have occurred. Student enrollment has more than doubled, total budget at the school has tripled, and the college has achieved Superior Performance status five of the past 6 years. In addition, Bladen Community has become a state leader in distance education. Furthermore, as a devoted husband, father, and friend, Darrell Page has truly been a foundation on which Bladen Community College and Bladen County have continued to thrive. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

In celebrating Dr. Page's upcoming retirement this June, let each of us remember the words of our third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him, always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Darrell, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin, Bladen County, Bladen Community College, and the State of North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and always helping his fellow citizens. May God's strength, joy and peace be with him always.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NICK
JACKSON FOR WINNING THE
OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Nick Jackson showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Nick Jackson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Nick Jackson always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Nick Jackson on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HELEN KOVAK—A JEWEL OF
SOUTHEAST TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a lifelong volunteer and inspiration to the Beaumont community, Helen Kovak.

Mrs. Kovak is a pillar of the Beaumont community, and has a heart the size of Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given to back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have even described her as, "the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Mrs. Kovak has served in a number of areas, one of which is the political arena, where she has been volunteering since the day she could vote. She is responsible for starting one of the first direct mail campaigns, which she carried out from her home, way back when Goldwater was running for office, and she serves as a Precinct Chairman for the Republican Party to this day.

A graduate of the University of Texas, Mrs. Kovak still sports a UT sticker on the back of her VW Beetle. She celebrated her 90th birthday on April 26th, and at a recent party with friends she stressed that people should appreciate what they have and "live each day to the fullest, because you never know when it's gonna end."

I am proud to recognize this gem of Southeast Texas on her 90th birthday. She is a true inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENT
ENGINEERS AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF EVANSVILLE FOR WINNING
NASA'S 15TH ANNUAL GREAT
MOONBUGGY RACE

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student engineers at the University of Evansville for winning first place in NASA's 15th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race.

The race is held each year to honor the ingenuity and creative problem-solving of the designers of the original lunar rover used during the Apollo Moon missions in the 1970s.

The University of Evansville team defeated 24 teams to win the college division competition. Their moonbuggy completed a half-mile

course designed to replicate lunar ground conditions in 4 minutes and 25 seconds.

These students represent America's next generation of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. I have no doubts that their ingenuity, creativity, and dedication to discovery will result in creative solutions to many of the challenges America faces after they leave the University of Evansville. Congratulations!

SEWAGE CRISIS NOW ADDED TO THE HUMANITARIAN DEBACLE IN GAZA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, since late January 2008, the 1.5 million person population in Gaza has been enduring an Israeli-imposed blockade. The blockade effectively restricts the entry of food, clean water, fuel, and medical supplies. The lack of basic goods has severely deteriorated Gaza's health, economy, and social fabric.

The World Bank reports that since Hamas ousted Fatah from Gaza last June, 90 percent of businesses have shut down costing workers more than 100,000 jobs. Due to the closure of Gaza's borders and its inability to import raw materials, farmers and businesses are unable to produce and export their goods leaving nearly half a million people without an income.

According to Oxfam, today 80 percent of Gaza's population is dependent on food aid. On April 24th, the United Nations, UN, announced the suspension of their food aid program to 650,000 Gazans, 56 percent of whom are children, due to a lack of fuel for their trucks. These restrictions exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis in which 17.5 percent of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Water and wastewater systems have also become a casualty of the blockade. Gaza's water and wastewater system is heavily reliant on diesel-powered generators. Due to the restrictions on the entry of diesel into Gaza, many water pumps do not have the power to provide running water. Additionally, the sewage system dates back to 1967 and was meant to provide for a population one-third the size of Gaza's Population. The lack of clean water and an adequate sewage system has led to a sanitary water crisis in Gaza.

According to a recent UN publication, seventy-five percent of Gaza's drinking water is polluted. The lack of clean water and a proper sewage system has caused infestations of small organisms such as amoeba that have led to several ailments including abdominal colic, diarrhea, and constipation. The sewage crisis has also led to overflow. On March 27, 2007, a wall of human waste overflowed into Gaza's residential areas and caused the death of children and elderly people.

According to the United Relief Works Agency, UNRWA, "Gaza is on the threshold of becoming the first territory to be intentionally reduced to a state of abject destitution, with the knowledge, acquiescence and, some would say, encouragement of the international community."

Israel must protect its citizens and ensure their security, but pursuant to the Fourth Ge-

neva Convention, Israel also has a legal duty to provide Gazans with food, clean water, electricity, and medical care. I urge the U.S. Administration to help end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ensure the health, safety, and security for Palestinians and Israelis.

NEW BRIDGING INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT TOUGH HI-TECH RESEARCH ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BIG THREE) ACT OF 2008

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Bridging Industry and Government Through Hi-Tech Research on Energy Efficiency (BIG THREE) Act of 2008. This important legislation is a bold step to foster innovation, create and retain high-paying jobs, and promote efficient and alternative fuel technology to ensure that automakers meet the increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy, CAFE, standards.

It is impossible to overlook the importance of the automotive industry to the U.S. economy. Our history and our heritage as a nation are deeply rooted in the automotive industry, which has greatly improved the quality of life in our time. Nearly 400,000 Americans jobs are provided directly by the automotive industry on assembly lines, in research facilities, and offices across the country. Additionally, approximately 3.5 million other jobs are supported by the automotive industry through parts suppliers, hospitals, schools, and police stations that serve them. That means that every automotive job equals nearly 9 other jobs for U.S. workers.

It is also impossible to ignore the current struggles of the automotive industry. When Congress enacted energy legislation that increased CAFE standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, it placed the burden of cost on the auto industry to meet the aggressive efficiency targets. Increased CAFE standards represent only the latest hurdle thrown at the automotive industry from Washington, with little help delivered to assist the industry's pursuit of higher efficiency and lower emissions. During a time of an economic slowdown, Washington should take steps to protect these valuable jobs, not jeopardize them.

CAFE will cost the domestic automotive industry an estimated \$85 billion to research, develop, and implement the efficient and alternative fuel technology required to meet the aggressive new standards. For an industry that already spends approximately \$16 billion per year on research and development, finding the extra funds to develop this technology without compromising drivers' safety will be extremely difficult. This means that the increased costs will have to be passed on to the consumer, with some estimating that it will cost an extra \$6,000 per car to meet CAFE standards.

Instead of throwing the automotive industry up the creek without a paddle,

Washington should play a part in increasing energy efficiency. Energy security is an issue of national security and must be addressed over the short term and the long term. This requires a comprehensive strategy and steadfast dedication to meet our goal.

That is why I have introduced this legislation, which will help automakers meet the new regulations, help make our country a leader in alternative fuel technologies, and help stimulate our slowing national economy. Michigan's economy has been in unique and deep trouble for some time.

The first step in my plan is to permanently extend the research and development tax credit at 20 percent and make it fully refundable for expenditures that help meet the new CAFE standards. Automakers and suppliers have not been able to take advantage of the tax credit because they have not made substantial profits in recent years. Allowing an industry that currently invests significant funding in advanced research and development to take advantage of the tax credit will help defray the costs of increased research and development. This will enable them to reinvest these funds and create more high-paying jobs in the U.S.

The New BIG THREE Act will also invest significant Federal funding in research and development of leap-ahead technologies that will help us meet the new CAFE standards. Advanced battery technology is one of the most promising ways to dramatically increase fuel efficiency. However, there is no domestic production of advanced battery technology that is applicable to vehicles. By investing \$750 million over 5 years to research and develop advanced battery technology, my bill will help ensure that America is the epicenter of hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles that will help reduce our dependence on oil.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology has always been regarded as the long-term goal of extremely low-emission transportation. The New BIG THREE Act will invest \$250 million over 5 years to install hydrogen fuel pumps in commercial gas stations in at least two pilot regions. By establishing a hydrogen infrastructure, we can promote use of currently available hydrogen vehicles and provide an incentive to produce more of these leap-ahead vehicles. The New BIG THREE Act will also invest \$150 million over 3 years for the Federal Government to purchase hydrogen vehicles in order to reduce the emissions of our fleets and demonstrate the viability of the technology.

The New BIG THREE Act also has a provision that will affect short-term efforts to increase fuel efficiency. Clean diesel technology is one of the best ways to reduce emissions in the short term, and utilizing biodiesel is a promising way to reduce our dependence on Middle East oil. However, not all current biodiesel blends are compatible with all biodiesel engines. My bill will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to make a harmonized national standard for biodiesel composition.

Finally, my comprehensive plan will establish the Interagency Group on CAFE Standards, which will make sure Federal agencies work together and that all money spent on auto-related projects is used wisely and most effectively.

Ultimately, my plan is about jobs and our economy. The New BIG THREE Act is about working with one of our most important industries to create and retain good jobs, allow the industry to be competitive in the global market, and help move to a cleaner and more efficient line of American cars. The strong position of the Federal Government created by CAFE on