

toward its former Soviet neighbors and the West.

Although there may be opportunities for the U.S. to re-engage with Russia under Medvedev, we must proceed with caution. Let us not forget that there are Iranian enrichment facilities in Russia, and that Russia uses its oil and gas resources to manipulate and control its sovereign neighbors.

These are the characteristics of an emerging dictatorship hiding beneath the mask of democracy.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 ATHENA AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the 2008 Lenawee County ATHENA Award recipients Durstyn Farnan, O.P., and Dr. Nancy Kelly, DVM, and Parthenon Award recipient United Bank and Trust. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate these individuals and this company on behalf of all of those who have benefited from their demonstrated excellence in their professions and dedicated service to Lenawee County and the State of Michigan.

ATHENA International was founded in the early 1980s by Martha Mertz, who while serving as the sole woman on the board of directors of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, was inspired to recognize female business leaders in her community whom she felt had largely been overlooked. Thus, the first ATHENA Award was presented in 1982 and 5,000 more have been awarded since to honor men and women across the globe for their professional excellence, community service, and active role in enabling women to achieve success as business and community leaders.

Durstyn Farnan, better known as Sister Dusty, has devoted much of her life to promoting international peace. An advocate for women's liberties worldwide, Sister Dusty has traveled to countries around the globe assisting women in other cultures achieve independence and promote peace. Additionally, she has educated students at Siena Heights University on the serious subject of the trafficking of women and children.

Dr. Nancy Kelly has faithfully served Lenawee County as a successful veterinarian and trusted mentor for many years. She is the on-call veterinarian for the Adrian, Madison, and Fairfield Township Fire Departments and holds an impressive record of extensive community service in the area. In addition to assisting veterinary students secure highly beneficial externships, she selflessly devotes much of her time to mentoring several local female students of veterinary medicine.

United Bank and Trust has a history of producing successful businesswomen and stands as a fine model to companies throughout Lenawee County. As a company committed to providing training and development opportunities to all employees, United has a track record of promoting women to leadership positions. United Bank and Trust has earned respect as a hometown bank for their tailored

service to the Lenawee community and for encouraging each of their employees to volunteer within the community.

This year's ATHENA Award for Lenawee County was presented to Sister Dusty, Dr. Nancy Kelly, and United Bank and Trust for demonstrating excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession and for actively assisting women in realizing their full leadership potential. The 2008 winners join an international network of men and women who work together to create leadership opportunities and encourage the empowerment of women leaders.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the recipients of the 2008 ATHENA Award for their invaluable service to the Lenawee community. May others know of my high regard for their commitment to promoting women around the world, as well as my best wishes for them in the future.

AMENDED SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL
REFORM ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day. When others talk about a dysfunctional Congress or claim that members of different political parties can't work together, they ought to look at this bill. Today, the House votes on the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 (H.R. 5196) that we debated on Tuesday. Subtitle A of Title I of H.R. 5196 has been in the making for the past 18 months when I first learned of the complaints from industry regarding the immense backlog of defense export license applications at the State Department. The Executive Branch, both sides of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, industry, and Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs, interested in non-proliferation all had input into this legislation.

Last year, I joined with Representatives JOE CROWLEY of New York and EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon to establish the Congressional Export Control Working Group. We educated Members of Congress and their staff on the importance of export control modernization efforts to both our national and economic security.

Export control modernization is extremely important to the constituents I am proud to represent in the 16th District of Illinois. This area of the country is one of the most heavily industrialized Congressional districts in the Nation. We make everything from nuts and bolts to the advanced electrical system for the new Boeing 787, the Dreamliner. Many of the products and technologies produced by the manufacturers I am so proud to represent are regulated under U.S. export control law.

When I was first elected to Congress almost 16 years ago, a manufacturer from northern Illinois came to me for assistance in navigating the regulatory process for selling their product overseas. Ever since that first experience, I have been dedicated to modernizing our Nation's export control system. I am continuing to work on policies that will enhance U.S. na-

tional security, strengthen our defense industrial base, and boost U.S. competitiveness.

One piece of that puzzle is being considered here today. The Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008—which I am proud to have co-sponsored—contains legislation (Subtitle A of Title I entitled the Defense Trade Controls Performance Improvement Act of 2008) I co-wrote along with my good friend and colleague from California, Representative BRAD SHERMAN who is the Chairman of the Terrorism, Non-proliferation, and Trade Subcommittee. This legislation will reduce defense trade license processing times, create a spare part waiver for our closest allies, and make licensing of defense items more transparent and predictable. These process improvements will make U.S. defense manufacturers in every category, including space, more competitive in the international marketplace. No longer will they have to fear being shut out of foreign markets or products because of a taint from the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, ITAR.

The bill will modernize the Federal Government's inefficient export control policy while strengthening national security and helping American companies sell more defense-related goods and services overseas to our allies.

H.R. 5196 requires the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, DDTC, at the State Department to hire more staff to reduce the backlog of license applications that impedes legitimate trade with our allies without compromising national security. The last time I checked, the State Department has only 42 licensing officers. By 2010, this legislation requires adequate staff and resources at the State Department to review and process defense trade licenses in a timely manner. This legislation creates a ratio of at least one DDTC officer for every 1,250 applications by 2010. The independent Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimated that this provision would require the hiring of 35 additional licensing officers.

H.R. 5196 also requires DDTC to assign no less than 3 individuals by fiscal year 2009 to review applications for commodity jurisdiction determinations. This is one area of export controls that is extremely complex and time consuming—determining whether or not a particular widget is a commercial dual-use item or a munition. Having specialized personnel dedicated to this task will be extremely helpful in improving the processing of these determinations. The legislation also increasing the transparency of commodity jurisdiction determinations with the publication of those decisions on the Internet. This will help companies know in advance whether or not their particular product would fall into a commercial or munitions category.

The legislation also creates a series of performance goals for DDTC: No longer than 60 days to process a defense trade license; 30 days to process a defense trade license for close allies; and 7 days to process a defense trade license from our close allies in support of combat operations or peacekeeping or humanitarian operations with U.S. Armed Forces. This in no way implies forcing a premature decision—these are simply goals to achieve that have already been vetted with the Executive Branch. All told, CBO scored these personnel enhancement as costing \$6 million in 2009 and \$31 million over the next 5 years,

which is a relatively modest price to pay to insure a vibrant and growing U.S. aerospace export industry. In 2007, the U.S. exported nearly \$97 billion worth of aerospace products, producing a \$60 billion positive trade balance in an otherwise grim trade picture. Nevertheless, H.R. 5916 also requires a report within 90 days on possible means for DDTC to achieve 100 percent self-financing.

H.R. 5916 creates a special licensing authorization for U.S. manufactured spare and replacement parts or components in connection with defense items previously lawfully exported to our closest friends and allies. This will help free up time of DDTC employees to go after more significant threats to our national security. Finally, the bill augments the input of the private sector Defense Trade Advisory Group, DTAG, into the State Department's defense trade agenda.

In conclusion, the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 streamlines the export control process, reduces the application backlog, and allows greater scrutiny on sensitive exports that could harm our country. It will better protect our Nation while helping U.S. companies sell more goods and services to our allies, creating more jobs for Americans. I appreciate the Foreign Affairs Committee's bipartisan efforts on this issue, particularly Chairmen BERMAN and SHERMAN and their respective staffs, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5916.

HONORING MARCUS MATHES OF
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Sergeant Marcus Mathes of Pasco County, Florida, was killed Monday, April 28th outside Baghdad, Iraq, when the equipment truck he was working on was struck by enemy rocket fire. Sergeant Mathes is survived by his mother and step-father, Sue and Mike Sawyer of Sebring, his father, Ralph Mathes of Tampa, and two brothers, Kyle Mathes of Illinois, and Zach Sawyer of Sebring.

A graduate of Zephyrhills High School, Sergeant Mathes grew up in Highlands County before moving to live with his father in Pasco County. While in high school, Sergeant Mathes joined the JROTC, and had dreams of being a professional military member. Inspired by the events of September 11, he enlisted in the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. Serving in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007, Sergeant Mathes was sent to Iraq in November of 2007.

A devoted family man, Sergeant Mathes married his high school sweetheart Julia two weeks after her graduation. The two were planning to celebrate their six-year wedding anniversary this June and had wanted to start a family together. During a visit to his base in Louisiana, Sergeant Mathes introduced his sister-in-law, Julia's sister Heather, to one of his fellow soldiers. Two months later, Bryan Harvey and Heather were married. One of his best friends who served in his same unit,

Bryan was nearby when Sergeant Mathes was killed, even picking up his torn Bible where it was thrown from the truck.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Marcus Mathes who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Marcus have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentle lady from Wisconsin, Representative Tammy Baldwin, I have sponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. USDA has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority. USDA is to assure that the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract, the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification, does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Further, the effects of the pilot project and FAV restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of La Crosse's Board of Park Commissioners for their 100 years of dedication to beautifying the largest city in western Wisconsin. Through their unrelenting hard work, a comprehensive park system consisting of 13 parks throughout the city was developed. Over the past century, countless families have benefited from the opportunities these parks have provided.

The Board of Park Commissioners was established through an ordinance passed by the Common Council in May of 1908. Mayor Wendell A. Anderson, a spirited advocate for park services, appointed Joseph M. Hixon, Edward L. Colman, Lucien F. Easton, and Henry Gund to the Board of Park Commissions. All 4 men were dedicated to public service and guided by a grand vision for the city of La Crosse. This vision was made into reality after the city hired landscape architect John Nolen, an understudy of the legendary Frederick Law Olmstead.

For 100 years, La Crosse's residents and visitors have enjoyed the comfort and recreation these parks offer. Having grown up on the north side of La Crosse, I know that the park system is an essential part of the community. Badger Park offered my friends and me a safe place to shoot hoops, play softball, and go ice skating. These parks are not only a way for families and friends to enjoy one another's company, but are also a means of creating lasting memories.

I applaud the La Crosse Common Council and the Board of Park Commissioners for their inspiration and dedication over the past 100 years. Their gift to the city of La Crosse will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents Illinois farmers and rural communities, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act, which is endorsed by every major agriculture group in my home state of Illinois, is good for our farmers and maintains our ability to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

This bill improves nutrition and conservation programs, and supports biofuel production at great benefit to the Illinois farm economy.