University worked together to provide free fares for students, and ridership on the shuttles increased by 15 percent between fall 2005 and fall 2006. The program was expanded in 2006 to allow free access onto the DCTA Commuter Express service and to expand the service on campus by two stops. The number of students, faculty, and staff that rode transit increased substantially in 2006 and, by the end of the year, 35–40% of passengers on the Commuter Express were associated with the University.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Denton County Transportation Authority. Their commitment to improving the public transportation system is to be commended and I hope other transit agencies will follow in their successful, innovative footsteps.

SUPPORTING OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan Senate-passed update to the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act, a chief component of national intelligence.

Three weeks have passed since our national security community lost the ability to track valuable intelligence without going through slow and burdensome bureaucratic hurdles. That's more than 3 weeks of terrorist communications that cannot be recovered. Yet, the Democratic House leadership under Speaker NANCY PELOSI refuses to debate a bipartisan Senate bill, which would give intelligence officials expanded authority to track terrorists outside of the United States. Since August last year, a temporary set of new laws authorized this program, but it expired on February 15, 2008.

Violent extremists operating around the world have one aim—kill Americans. I am committed to providing responsible and appropriate tools to our intelligence community to protect and defend Americans at home and abroad. It is not a coincidence that the U.S. has not been attacked at home since September 11, 2001. American intelligence officers protected us, and Congress must provide the tools and techniques they need to meet the long-term challenges that remain. Those standing on the frontlines battling these terrorists must have the ability to quickly intercept foreign communications to stop terrorists.

The Democratic leadership in the House has said, ''there is no urgency'' on updating our Nation's intelligence laws. I vehemently disagree, allowing this law to expire is completely irresponsible. I will continue to stand up for our men and women who defend us against future terrorist attacks.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the Senate-passed bill to expedite this necessary and timely update to the FISA law. Another day should not pass without our passing this bill.

HONORING THE MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM FOUNDATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful organization in my home State and district in Florida, the Miami Medical Team Foundation, M.M.T.F. The M.M.T.F. is celebrating their 25th year as a local organization with worldwide significance and deserves more than a moment of recognition for their service.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation is a group of wonderful people that have formed a nonprofit, humanitarian, self-supported organization whose goals are the improvement of the sanitary and medical conditions in Third World countries.

The M.M.T.F. is composed at its core by medical doctors of all specialties, but as well, nurses, physical therapists, medical technicians, and Pharmacists. Founded in the early 1980s when refugees began piling in the borders between Nicaragua and Honduras, the group has since been involved in many different scenarios of tragedy in five continents of our planet, providing assistance to a total of 19 countries and makes available medical and surgical teams and the shipping of donated medicine and medical equipment. Members of the M.M.T.F. have always covered the costs of each and every humanitarian operation they embark on.

With the strong leadership of their president, Dr. Manuel A. Alzugaray, they have seen their efforts put to amazing use. Manuel is a dedicated individual with a professionalism that can not be easily matched. I know that it will he with his guidance that the M.M.T.F. will continue to play a vital role in making sure the world's most disadvantaged populations receive the timely care that they so desperately deserve.

Again, I praise the Miami Medical Team Foundation for all their successful initiatives across the globe and moreover, I commend them for their willingness to operate as a financially independent organization that could not exist without its members' dedication to the noble principles that they hold so dear. For all that the Miami Medical Team Foundation has done in support of their global humanitarian mission, and will certainly continue to do, I thank them so very much.

EXCERPT FROM THE WORLD OF WATCHERS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the attached article is submitted at the request of the American Center of Polish Culture.

[Excerpts from The World of the Watchers by Edward Pinkowski]

INTRODUCTION

Almost a century after it was created, the equestrian statue of General Casimir Pulaski in Washington, D.C., has overshadowed discussion of many subjects, For example, very few are familiar with the Polish roots of Frank C. Watcher, who was elected in Baltimore, Maryland, as a Republican to the 56th Congress in 1898 and was reelected three successive times. None of the other congressmen then had a drop of Polish blood.

When Abraham L. Brick, who came from South Bend, Indiana, to Washington at the same time as Watcher, introduced a bill for the erection of the monument to Pulaski, Watcher saw that it had little support. He realized that if he didn't speak out, none of his colleagues would pay attention to the bill to honor the Polish hero of the American Revolution. He was known as an efficacious man, with a cheerful smile, who easily won others to his side. ''On the last day of the session the Speaker of the House brought it up for consideration,'' he told a reporter of the Baltimore Sun in 1902. ''The bill passed.''

It took years after that for the federal government to set up a commission, find a site for the Pulaski monument in the nation's capital, and work out the rest of the details. The sculptor was Kazimierz Chodzinski, who had studied under the famous Matejko in Krakow, Poland, and was the one who carved the Kosciuszko statue before in Chicago. When his equestrian statue of Pulaski was unveiled in 1910, critics said it was the best they ever saw.

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Frank Charles Watcher was born September 16, 1861, in South Baltimore, where the Baltimore and Ohio company built the largest railroad station in the world in 1852 and the stockyards butchered more hogs than any other city on the Atlantic coast. Built on the Patapsco River not far from the Watcher home, Fort McHenry, which Francis Scott Key immortalized in the Star Spangled Banner, was used in the 1860s to hold thousands of Confederate prisoners of war.

When he was growing up, Frank Watcher dreamed of being a tailor like his father. Upon graduation from St. Paul's German English School, however, he got a job as a clerk for $1.50 a week in a clothing store. In time, because of his energy, determination, and brains, he managed a business.

POLITICAL CAREER

The first important campaign of his life came in 1898 when he received the Republican nomination for Congress. Nobody expected him to win. One of the issues in his favor was immigration. The Democratic Party, largely in Irish hands, was against new immigration because the immigrants who came mostly from Poland and Italy were taking the places of Irish workers in mines and factories and working for less money. In the coming election, the Polish citizens of Baltimore, most of whom previously supported Democrats, voted in large part for Watcher. He was elected to the Fifty-sixth Congress by a majority of 122 votes.

Watcher ran again two years later and won by more than 2,071 votes. After three terms in Washington, he ran for mayor of Baltimore. He won in the primaries and lost in the general election by less than 500 votes.

His family was at his bedside when he died on July 1, 1910. His body was followed to Loudon Park Cemetery by a long cortege of political and business associates. The honorary pall bearers included Speaker of the House Joseph G. Cannon.