protect transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities—perform to enhance communities and our Nation.

Public works keep our society functioning: providing buildings that house vital government offices, and giving our country rail, highways, airports, and public transit to move goods and passengers.

Similarly, public works help maintain public health: Providing systems for waste and sewage disposal, while supplying us with crucial water for our homes, businesses, and agriculture. Pipelines safely transport natural gas and hazardous liquids through 2,300,000 miles of pipelines throughout the country.

Many people take for granted our public works, recognizing their importance only when problems are encountered. When water supply is not efficient, when infrastructure crumbles, and when accidents in moving transportation occur, we are then forced to reflect on what needs to be invested in the larger public works sector of our economy.

The ''2006 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance'' report by the Department of Transportation confirms that investment in the Nation's highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with the growing demands of the system.

Likewise, our country is in need of critical investment in water infrastructure. It was more than 1 year ago, at the beginning of the 110th Congress, that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed three key water infrastructure bills: H.R. 569, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007; H.R. 700, the Health Communities Water Supply Act of 2007; and H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. These bills later overwhelmingly passed the House, and we continue to wait for our counterparts in the Senate to take similar action.

I strongly support investment in our Nation's infrastructure, as well as the men and women who keep our public works, quite simply, working.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On April 26, 2008 a group of 100 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5613, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008.

I believe that any society can be judged on how they treat the most vulnerable—namely seniors, children and the disabled.

This measure places a 1-year moratorium on Medicaid regulations and cuts put forward unilaterally by the administration that could have a devastating effect on each of those groups.

Some of these cuts would slash access to rehabilitation services, decrease services for foster care and abused children, limit services to the elderly, and persons with developmental disabilities.

In fact, these cuts could have a disastrous impact in Michigan on the 21,000 developmentally disabled and 27,000 children with medical conditions—the very people who need our help the most.

With Michigan's struggling economy, the high price of gas and home heating, and an overall increase in cost of living, many families need access to these services.

The proposed cuts to the Medicaid program have the potential to cost the State of Michigan over 15,000 jobs and the loss of $732 million dollars in Federal funding in the first year alone. And it's set to get worse over the next 5 years resulting in an estimated $3.9 billion in Federal cuts.

Delaying these draconian cuts for 1 year will give Congress the opportunity to work together on these issues so that we can better serve those in need across our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN ''JACK'' J. WALSH, JR. FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE GLAZIERS AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL 1044 OF BOSTON

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man whose professional life has been dedicated to the skill of his trade and commitment to his fellow union members. John ''Jack'' J. Walsh, Jr. is a remarkable individual with a long and illustrious career in the Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 1044 of Boston, Massachusetts.

Jack joined the Glaziers and Glassworkers Union on March 12, 1973. Throughout his tenure with Local 1044, Jack always exhibited a commitment to excellence in his trade and dedication to ensuring the welfare of his fellow union members.

Jack has been equally dedicated to serving his local community. Notably, Jack served as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and is currently a member of both the Weymouth Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2899 and the Loyal Order of Moose in Braintree.

Despite his various accomplishments, Jack has always taken the greatest pride in his roles as a devoted husband and father. For the past 32 years, Jack has had the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune of being married to his beloved wife, Patty, and together, they are the proud and loving parents of Jonathan and Gregory.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the Floor of the House today to join with Jack Walsh's family, friends and Brothers and Sisters of Labor to thank him for over 35 years of remarkable service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Jack's distinguished career and wishing him good health and God's blessing in all his future endeavors.

THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Our voices, as well as those of Armenian-Americans across the nation, are essential in the effort to bring needed attention to such a historic tragedy. The Armenian-American community has made tremendous contributions to our country, and their efforts and passion will help ensure that those who lost their lives will not be forgotten.

Today, we pay tribute to the memory of those who died, reflect on all those who have suffered from such prejudice, and vow to raise awareness so that such an atrocity never occurs again. As a member of the Armenian Caucus and a cosponsor of the genocide resolution, I will keep fighting to ensure that the Armenian Genocide is appropriately recognized.

It is a shame that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to heal these wounds and also help end atrocities occurring as we speak. With the Olympics taking place this year, it is my hope that all nations can come together and play a constructive role in ending violence in places like Darfur. In the spirit of the Olympics, we must come together as one and make clear that we all stand with the world against genocide and human rights abuses. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington, DC, to promote healing and peace throughout the world.

I am also very proud that my fellow Rhode Islanders have been actively involved in calling attention to this issue, and I urge them to continue to make their voices heard. As an ardent supporter of Rhode Island's Armenian-American community throughout my public service career, I join my colleagues today in honoring the victims of the genocide by paying tribute to their memory, showing compassion for those who have suffered from such prejudice, and never forgetting the pain that they have endured.