

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards, for consumer mortgage, loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, it is well-known by now that our economic crisis began as a foreclosure crisis. It began with homeowners across America signing up for mortgages they could not afford. And even though few of us knew it at the time, much of our financial system was riding on their ability to pay those mortgages off. When it became clear that many of them could not, the economic chain reaction affected every community in America. For a family, a foreclosure is traumatic enough—but we have also learned from this crisis that foreclosures can have wide public consequences, as well.

Of those who applied for mortgages they could not possibly pay back, some were simply irresponsible. But many others were hard-working, responsible homeowners who fell victim to predatory lending. Unfortunately, incentives in our financial system made that predatory lending possible: unscrupulous mortgage brokers were not required to provide sufficient information to homeowners, and those who then sold the mortgages had little reason to see that they were sound.

This bill goes a long way toward correcting those flaws, protecting future homeowners, and cracking down on predatory lending. It helps consumers get full information—the information they need to decide wisely on what is one of the biggest financial commitments of their lives. It prevents lenders from steering borrowers into higher-cost loans and bans yield spread premiums and other compensatory incentives that lead brokers to push those loans on borrowers. It also establishes national standards for the protection of borrowers and ensures that those who entrap consumers in predatory loans are liable for adjusting the loan's terms and paying the borrower's costs, including attorneys' fees.

Finally, this bill requires those who securitize loans to third parties to put "skin in the game" and retain interest in at least 5% of the credit risk of each loan they sell or transfer. This provision will ensure that, at every link of the chain, there is an interest in seeing that the loan is repaid and that the homeowner does not go into foreclosure.

Mr. Chair, this is a strong, carefully deliberated response to the foreclosure crisis, one that rules out many of the unscrupulous practices that harmed so many responsible families—and helped put an entire economy at

risk. I believe that if these provisions had been in place 10 years ago, the foreclosure crisis might have been averted. We cannot turn back time. But we can learn—and if we have learned anything, it is how much we need legislation like this. I urge my colleagues to support it.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF RUSSELL DUNHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of an American hero.

Russell Dunham passed away on April 6, 2009, at his home in Jerseyville, Illinois. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Lee Neal and her husband Kerry, his stepdaughter Annette Wilson and her husband Glenn, and his stepson, David Bazzell. Mr. Dunham had three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, three brothers and three sisters. Today they have my condolences, those of this House and those of a grateful nation. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wilda, two granddaughters, five brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Dunham served our nation in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, part of General Patton's Third Army during World War II. In January 1945, near Kayserberg, France, Technical Sergeant Dunham single-handedly silenced three German machine guns. Leading his platoon forward through the snow, Sergeant Dunham raced 75 yards through heavy fire to assault a well-emplaced enemy position. Attacking the first gun, Sergeant Dunham was seriously wounded by machine gun fire, but he kept up his assault, silencing first one, then another, and then the third and final enemy emplacement, using his 175 rounds from his carbine and 11 grenades.

Despite his wounds, Sergeant Dunham kept moving forward from one position to the next, risking his life above and beyond the call of duty. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity," Technical Sergeant Russell Dunham, earned the Medal of Honor from the grateful nation he helped to save.

After the war, Mr. Dunham spent more than three decades helping area veterans through his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He raised a family, and was an active member of the VFW and AMVETS. He will be dearly missed by his family and his community, and his service and sacrifice will continue to earn the gratitude of all Americans.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to cast my vote along with 249 other members of the House of Representatives in favor of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This legislation will protect Americans by expanding the definition of hate crimes and providing law enforcement officers with the tools they need to prosecute these heinous crimes.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act is not a cure-all and it will not stop all hate violence, but it will send the message that senseless violence is unacceptable and perpetrators will be punished. Since law enforcement sometimes lacks the personnel, resources or determination needed to properly investigate and prosecute hate crimes, this measure will give the appropriate agencies the tools they need to combat hate violence in our communities.

Under current law, the Federal Government can only investigate hate crimes motivated by the victim's race, color, religion or national origin. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act extends Federal jurisdiction to hate crimes motivated by the victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. Because such crimes are directed at an entire group of people and not just one individual, the bill provides assistance to state and local law enforcement to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

It is my hope that the Senate will quickly take up and pass this important measure. Hate motivated crimes undermine our communities and final passage of this bill has been delayed for far too long. I look forward to the day when legislation like this will no longer be needed, but until that day comes I applaud passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

TRIBUTE TO MS. TERRY TYBOROWSKI

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of Terry Tyborowski, Professional Staff for the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Unfortunately, Terry will soon be leaving the House of Representatives for a new job at the Department of Energy, but the positive impact of her work will be felt in this House, and across this nation, for many years to come.

As a member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee for over 6 years, I

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have had the opportunity to work with Terry on a number of vitally important energy issues. I have seen firsthand the professionalism she brings to the job and the respect she has earned from Members, staff, and stakeholders alike. That respect derives not from her position or title, but from the hard work, honesty, reliability, and deep knowledge that are so prominent in Terry's character.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Terry is her commitment to doing that which is right for the nation and its energy future. The Energy and Water Development Subcommittee is one of the most bipartisan, or non-partisan, in Congress and the staff that work there demonstrate it daily—particularly Terry. Her opinions didn't change when David Hobson yielded the Subcommittee's gavel to Peter Visclosky and neither did her approach toward Members, staff, or issues. She remains committed to good policy and providing wise counsel while always being loyal to the Chairman for whom she worked. What more could any of us ask of the professionals who work in this body?

I have been in Congress for over 10 years and was a member of the Idaho State legislature for 14 years. I have worked with hundreds of staff members and met with thousands of policy experts over the years. Much like the rest of my colleagues, I have seen the good and bad, the loud and quiet, the effective and ineffective, and those that are honest or not. I can say with certainty that Terry is one of the finest professionals with whom I have worked and a person from whom I have learned a great deal.

Her presence here on the Hill, and in the Subcommittee, will be deeply missed by me and by all of my colleagues who work with Terry. At the same time, her expertise, fairness, and good judgment will be put to good use at the Department of Energy and those of us who represent DOE sites are looking forward to continuing our work with Terry in her new capacity.

In closing, I would simply like to thank Terry for her hard work, her tenacity, her good counsel, and most of all, her friendship.

HONORING LIEUTENANT ROGER
"CHIP" WEBSTER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Lieutenant Roger "Chip" Webster for being selected as the Bartlett Fire Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

Since joining the Bartlett Fire Department on August 16, 1998, Lieutenant Webster is known around the fire station for his leadership abilities that have become a trademark throughout his career. After being hired as a front line firefighter, Lieutenant Webster began his ascent through the ranks of the Bartlett Fire Department serving first as a Driver and then promoted to Fire Lieutenant. As a testament to his character and determination, Lieutenant Webster challenges himself to keep his personal level of training, education and certification above all recognized standards in the fire profession. With his "can do" attitude in

tact, Lieutenant Webster motivates other fire professionals to aspire to higher standards through his leadership and inspiration.

I am pleased to know that experienced public servants like Lieutenant Webster are hard at work each day keeping the citizens of Bartlett, Tennessee safe. With his broad knowledge of the various facets of the fire department, Lieutenant Webster is a valuable asset not only to the Bartlett Fire Department but to the entire Shelby County community. Lieutenant Webster has my deepest gratitude and respect as he selflessly protects our neighborhoods each day with courage under fire.

Please join me in honoring Lieutenant Chip Webster on receiving this truly well-deserved award as the Bartlett Fire Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE PASSING OF CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER BERNARD C.
WEBBER, UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD, RET.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to rise today to commemorate the passing on January 24, 2009, of Bernard C. Webber, a truly great member of the maritime community and a genuine hero of the 1952 Pendleton rescue off Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

As a teenager from Milton, Massachusetts, young Webber demonstrated his service to his country by serving with the U.S. Merchant Marines in the Pacific during World War II. On February 26, 1946, Webber enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He quickly rose through the ranks and was eventually assigned to Coast Guard Station Chatham as a First Class Boat-swains Mate.

After just six years in the service, he distinguished himself on the night of February 18, 1952, by executing the greatest small-boat rescue in Coast Guard history. Webber and his crew of three crossed the treacherous Chatham Bar and made their little 36-foot lifeboat, the CG 3600, famous. After Webber and his crew crossed the bar, they immediately faced 70-knot horizontal blinding snow and 60-foot waves en route to the floundering 503-foot tanker Pendleton, a T-2 fuel tanker that had broken in half the same night. With the windshield all but destroyed, all means of navigation—including the compass—obliterated by seas and winds, and with limited-to-no visibility, Webber nonetheless found the stern of the tanker where thirty-three were huddled in the wet and freezing night.

Webber skillfully guided his small boat powered only by a single 90-horsepower gasoline engine and rescued all but one of the crew from the stern of the stricken tanker. Moments after the last crewman was rescued, the hulk of the Pendleton rolled over and sank. Webber then skillfully navigated his grossly-overloaded boat toward safe refuge, but had to cross the Chatham bar again before reaching the safety of Chatham Harbor.

For their actions, Webber and his crew received the coveted Gold Lifesaving Medal, reserved for extreme heroism, and a place in Coast Guard history for having executed the

Greatest Small Boat Rescue of all time. In 2007, the Coast Guard acknowledged the enormity of the rescue by declaring it their third most significant rescue of all time, ranking behind only the 1980 rescue of 520 people from the Dutch liner Prinsendam off Alaska and the service's phenomenal performance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, during which 33,545 people were saved. In 2002, I had the great and distinct privilege of overseeing the re-issuance of the Gold Lifesaving Medals to Warrant Officer Webber and his crew at ceremonies honoring them in Boston and on Cape Cod.

Webber's life was not solely defined by the Pendleton rescue or his time in the Coast Guard. He served in the Coast Guard until 1966 after serving a tour in Viet Nam and at several other stations and lightships. He went on to serve as the Town of Wellfleet, Massachusetts' harbormaster; a charter boat captain out of Orleans; the Warden-head Boatman for the National Audubon Society; and part of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Maine—all told, spending more than half his life on New England waters. In his later life, he continued to make contributions to his former service's proud heritage with his summer visits to local Coast Guard stations, and by educating Coast Guard Academy cadets and others about his time in the Coast Guard.

Warrant Officer Bernard C. Webber leaves a legacy of quiet strength and dignity that is a loss to Massachusetts and the United States. As we honor his memory with a service this weekend, I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in acknowledging the passing of an American icon and Coast Guard hero.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DANIEL
TORRES HISPANIC CENTER
OF READING, PA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center of Reading and Berks County on its 40th Anniversary and to honor the non-profit organization for its commitment to serving the region's growing Latino population.

Thanks to an extremely dedicated and hard-working staff, the Center serves more than 15,000 people in the community each year and offers about 20 diverse, high-quality programs.

These programs range from providing hot meals for students after school in the Kid's Café to cultivating future community leaders through the Leadership Institute to a thriving Senior Center where older members of the community socialize, share a meal and receive other important services. All of the programs strengthen the character of the participants as well as the fabric of the community.

The Club will celebrate its 40th Anniversary on Friday, May 8th, 2009 during a dinner at the Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center of Reading and Berks County