

groups, such as 4-H, the Boy Scouts of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The ranch and its students give back to the community in many ways and display the dedication, purity of purpose and selfless service that personified the spirit of the 2009 Inauguration Parade.

The educational and service mission of McCrossan Boys Ranch is an admirable and worthy cause. It is an organization that instills American values in young men and helps them make valuable contributions to the fabric of our society.

Madam Speaker, it is because of its mission, as well as its achievements, that I rise today in recognition of the McCrossan Boys Ranch Hitch Team for their participation in the 2009 Inauguration Parade.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENDRA
KASTEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in bestowing our sincere thanks to Kendra Kasten, a woman who has devoted thousands of hours of volunteer service to her community and personally helped countless children better their reading skills.

After devoting her professional life to teaching children and her precious free-time to lifting others up and never seeking recognition herself, Kendra is being duly honored by the Town of Hillsborough, California with their "Community Care Award".

The Community Care Award "honors a person in a salaried position with the School District or Town of Hillsborough or other vital community role." Ms. Kasten is the embodiment of the criteria set forth for the award, specifically in regard to having "made a sustained and significant contribution that has broadly touched the lives of our children. These contributions are widely recognized as having lasting impact to our community."

As both a parent and teacher, Kendra Kasten has given her all to the betterment of her community. A reading specialist, she currently works with Kindergarten to Second Grade students in small groups to help with the development of crucial literacy skills. Kendra also teaches weekly whole-class lessons to 2nd graders in the area of syllabication.

Kendra's lesson plans come from years of teaching experience. She formalized and organized her experience at the urging of her colleagues and used it to benefit all teachers in her school district.

Madam Speaker, in addition to teaching, this vibrant and amazing woman has volunteered in her children's classrooms and the Town Library and served on more committees than any one person could possibly squeeze into a single lifetime. Her husband, Hillsborough Town Councilman Tom Kasten, and children Jeff and Alyssa are fortunate to have such a dynamic partner and role model and also deserve our thanks for loaning their wife and mother to the community.

It is with a great deal of pride that I recognize a true community leader and selfless volunteer—Ms. Kendra Kasten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL
LEAVE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I proudly join in a bipartisan effort with Representatives FRANK WOLF, STENY HOYER, DANNY DAVIS, ED TOWNS, GEORGE MILLER, LYNN WOOLSEY, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and many others to reintroduce the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. I am also pleased that Senator WEBB will be introducing the companion bill in the Senate as well. This bill will provide four weeks of paid leave to federal employees when they have a new child.

The House passed this important legislation in the 110th Congress with a strong bipartisan majority and I am hopeful that we will be able to promptly pass the bill in both houses and send it to President Obama for his signature.

More than ever, families need access to paid parental leave. In the face of rising unemployment and falling home and equities values, families cannot afford to risk losing a job or going without pay after the birth of a new child. Families are already squeezed like never before and the cost of raising a child is only growing. USDA estimates that a family will spend an additional \$11,000 in the first year of having a new child.

Few families can afford to forgo a month's pay which is why this bill is so critical. If we truly believe in the value of family, then we need to value the work that families do. This means that we need to stop asking parents to choose between a paycheck and caring for a new child. Unlike a generation or two ago, today both parents work outside the home and both need time off from work when they have a new child. Yet, most do not have access to paid family leave.

By providing paid parental leave to Federal employees, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act establishes the Federal Government as a model employer. This landmark bill is the first to provide paid family leave for new parents. It is good for the Federal agencies, is good for Federal employees, and is cost effective. Finally, this bill signals our commitment to valuing our employees and their families.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that together we can work to value families and the work they do and demonstrate our commitment by passing this important bill.

HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS, TO
CELEBRATE 350TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Hadley, Massachusetts. I would like to share some local history as provided by the Hadley guide into the official record.

Hadley was founded by a dissenting Connecticut congregation under the leadership of Re. John Russell in 1659. As an agricultural

community on the east bank of the Connecticut River, John Pyncheon purchased the site of the new settlement from the Indians on behalf of the settlers. The first settlers laid out this area, formerly known as the Norwottuck Meadow, as the center of the new settlement before their arrival, with the Town Common, referred to as "the Broad Street," as the central feature. The common measured 20 rods wide and one mile long, with the Connecticut River defining both ends, and was reportedly based on the original plan of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Eight-acre home lots were ranged along both sides of the common, with farmlands behind.

In 1675–76, during King Philip's War, to guard against Indian attacks, a palisade that ran far enough behind the houses to include most of the barns and farm buildings enclosed the street and common. One such attack occurred on June 12 of 1676. Legend has it that the town was saved from destruction when, at a critical moment, one William Goffe showed up in the midst of the townspeople, warned them of the danger, and led the town in fending off the assault, disappearing shortly afterward. Goffe, later known as "The Angel of Hadley," became the subject of many legends.

Though the years, the common remained the focus of town life. The meetinghouse occupied a prominent site, animals were pastured on the open land, militia drills were held periodically, and Hadley's Liberty Pole was erected there during the Revolutionary War. Taverns at the north and south ends and at the center of the common served the needs of passengers on the ferry, stagecoach, and riverboat routes.

By the 1670s, the town rapidly developed northward. The North Hadley Mill Pond, also known as Mill River, became the site of the Hopkins Corn Mill, and millers and farmers settled in Hopkins Meadow. The rent paid by mill workers to live here went to support the Hopkins School, which founded by Edward Hopkins of England, a former governor of Connecticut.

Hadley has long been the subject of much folklore, especially when it came to witchcraft. The most notable "witch" in the town of Hadley was Mary Webster, who, although acquitted of "familiarity with the devil" in a Boston Court in 1683, was nonetheless hung, unsuccessfully, by young Hadley men in 1685.

As the number of settlers south of Mount Holyoke grew, the desire for a local place of worship also grew. As an answer to the problems of settlers traveling many miles to church, the towns of Hatfield, Granby, South Hadley and Amherst formed from the sprawling town of Hadley. The town continued to grow as an agricultural town during the 1700s. While subsistence farming was most common during this time, the exporting of everything from produce to beef to furs grew. Most of the products were taken by flatboat down the Connecticut River and to the Boston area as well. It was around 1792 that broomcorn became the dominant crop in Hadley. So abundant was this crop that Hadley would come to be known as the Nation's broomcorn and broom manufacturing capital. Broom and brush making became a thriving industry here, exporting all across New York and New England, and as far as Ohio.

Over time the soil that produced so much broomcorn slowly depleted. By 1840, tobacco would take its place as the major crop as well

as seed onions and other vegetables. The Massachusetts Central Railroad crossed the northern half of the common in 1887, providing a faster way for Hadley farmers to ship their produce to market. The Connecticut Valley Street Railway lay out along Russell Street about 1900 made local travel to Northampton and Amherst easier.

It was during the late 1800s that, because of labor shortages and a drop in land values, Hadley experienced somewhat of a decline in farming. It was also about this time that a large number of Irish and, later, Polish immigrants that were recruited from Ellis Island for labor purposes settled in Hadley. It was the Polish immigrants that are credited with saving Hadley's farmland as they worked the fine Hadley soil back into fertility. By 1920, asparagus became the popular crop in Hadley, soon making the town the asparagus capital of the world. Most recently, a shipment of Hadley asparagus from Alligator Brook Farm was shipped to former President Bush at the White House in July 2008 after the President had remarked how "fabulous" German asparagus was during his visit with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Once again, Hadley was able to claim its rightful title of "The asparagus capital of the world."

Today, in spite of commercial development along Route 9, Hadley remains largely agricultural and residential. It has the largest number of acres in agriculture in the Pioneer Valley, which includes crops of corn, potatoes, tobacco and scores of other vegetables. Malls and commercial businesses now lie along Russell Street on Route 9 to the east of the town's center.

Hadley is a beautiful place to live. I am proud to represent this town which is rich with history and join with its citizens in celebrating Hadley's 350th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The vote was on an amendment offered by Representative MAURICE HINCHEY of New York to H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on that question.

H.R. 4156, THE SECURITY CLEARANCE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Security Clearance Oversight and Accountability Act. This Act is the result of the work the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I'm pleased, Mr. ISSA, the Ranking

Member of the Subcommittee during the 110th Congress, has again joined me as a co-sponsor of this legislation. I hope we will move this legislation quickly, given the strong bipartisan support that it enjoys. It will improve our insight into the security clearance process, and by doing so, improve the process itself.

Security clearances are the gateway to serving our Nation in national security, homeland security, and many foreign policy positions. Over time, the number of Federal employees and contractors holding clearances has stretched into the hundreds of thousands, clogging the clearance system and creating tremendous backlogs. Following the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, our country faced an urgent need to expand its national security workforce, but hiring was hampered, and continues to be hampered, by our clearance system. It is imperative, especially as we transition to a new Administration, that security clearances not be a hindrance to our national security.

In 2004, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, IRTPA, which contained many provisions to improve the security clearance process. During the last Congress, our Subcommittee undertook a thorough review of the process and the progress toward meeting the goals of the Act. We had round-table meetings with representatives of industry and representatives of the Intelligence Community agencies. We carefully reviewed all reports submitted in response to the Intelligence Reform Act as well as GAO reports on security clearance reform in the Department of Defense. We held a series of open hearings with Administration witnesses and GAO to discuss accomplishments and areas where progress was lacking and we intend to continue that oversight in the 111th Congress. This bill will assist us in that task while improving the quality of our security clearances.

In addition to our own oversight, we requested that the GAO review the security clearance processes inside the Intelligence Community and report its findings. GAO brings decades of experience and deep expertise to this task. For more than 20 years its experts have examined the personnel security practices in the Department of Defense. This is the first time that Intelligence Community security practices will be subjected to such scrutiny. We look forward to Intelligence Community's cooperation with the GAO and to reviewing the results of GAO's work.

This bill is designed to remedy the shortcomings we identified last Congress. It takes a new approach to reform by requiring agencies to report to Congress annually on certain metrics related to the security clearance process. The metrics in this bill would enable Congress and HPSCI to perform effective oversight, would allow both branches to track improvements from year to year, and would allow agencies to judge the effectiveness of each other's security clearance process, improving confidence in the system. In a few areas where adequate metrics have not been developed, the Administration is required to propose metrics to Congress.

Just a few weeks ago, the Administration's Joint Security and Security Reform Team issued its proposal for security clearance process transformation. Their vision of a transformed process includes consolidated databases, interactive electronic applications, in-

vestigative techniques tailored to individual cases, automated investigation tools, automated clearance adjudication, and a more aggressive reinvestigation schedule for individual holding security clearances. Many of these reforms were required by the IRTPA and I am pleased to see their long-delayed implementation.

The security clearance process is a key to our national security establishment and we must make sure that it works as efficiently as possible. An effective security clearance system keeps out those who pose a security risk, while quickly identifying those who are trustworthy to work in the system. For too long it has been a troubled system. This legislation will allow us to confirm the necessary progress we must make in this critical area.

TARP DISAPPROVAL VOTE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I voted to disapprove the release of the second half of the so-called TARP funds. The Senate has already approved the release, so mine is essentially a protest vote. But it is a protest that should be heard.

The Bush Administration presented the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program to Congress as an asset purchase program. We were told that the Treasury Department would use the funds primarily to purchase mortgage-backed securities and other toxic assets, and then banks and credit unions would use their cleaned-up balance sheets to free up credit while the government helped renegotiate home mortgages. The focus was supposed to be about keeping people in their homes.

But looking back, it feels more like a classic bait and switch. Rather than spend the money as promised, the Bush Administration took advantage of loopholes in the law to funnel money directly to banks, who have been loathe to part with it. And the Bush Administration did this with scant oversight or accountability. We still have little idea how the first \$350 billion was spent, or whether much of it made any difference.

What is clear is that little of the funds went to the small banks and credit unions that actually keep our communities growing. I understand that only one bank holding company in my district, out of dozens of struggling community banks and credit unions, has received any help under the TARP.

The TARP has essentially become a \$350 billion bank consolidation fund. And in the meantime, the key driver behind this crisis—home foreclosures—has been all but ignored.

My constituents have noticed, and they continue to express overwhelming disapproval of the way the program has been run thus far.

Yesterday, I voted for H.R. 384, Chairman FRANK's TARP Reform and Accountability Act, which I believe would have made vital changes to the TARP—including the adoption of a home foreclosure program modeled after the one proposed by FDIC Chair Sheila Bair.

But I understand that the Senate has no plans to take up the Frank Bill, and instead will rely on assurances from NEC Chairman Larry Summers that the Obama Administration will use the second \$350 billion responsibly.