

him in the backseat of the patrol car and then returned to the driver's seat. The subject in the backseat was able to move his hands to his front, retrieve a concealed handgun, and then shot Officer Johnson in the back of the head four times.

Despite being fatally wounded, Officer Johnson was able to push an emergency button, alerting dispatch to the incident. When other officers arrived, the male was still handcuffed and sitting in the patrol car, and the weapon was recovered. Officer Johnson was taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

For these reasons, and more, our country has found respect for these brave men and women throughout its history. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, and to designate the calendar week in which May 15 occurs as Police Week.

And it is this tradition that we continue today, as this body, the House of Representatives, honors police officers for their efforts to create safer and more secure communities, and who risk their lives daily to protect Americans.

I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues that Police Week provides an opportunity to honor police officers and law enforcement personnel for their selfless acts of bravery, and that police officers and law enforcement personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice should be remembered and honored.

So let there be no doubt that the House of Representatives expresses its strong support for the Nation's police officers and law enforcement personnel.

IN APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARILYN MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER—

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the end of every school year is a time of change as graduates move on and students move up. In California's Twelfth Congressional District, this school year ends by bidding farewell to an unparalleled education professional, Marilyn Miller, Superintendent of the Hillsborough City School District.

Ms. Miller came to our community in 1975, with ten years of teaching under her belt in Southern California and Illinois. Her experience, passion for teaching and devotion to her students were immediately recognized and within five years, Marilyn was promoted to Principal of South Hillsborough School. In 1984, she was given even greater responsibility when she moved to William H. Crocker Middle School, where she stayed until ascending to the Superintendent's position 17 years ago.

Under Superintendent Miller's extraordinary leadership, Hillsborough schools have been singled out for local, statewide, national and even international awards. Nine times in her tenure, Hillsborough schools have been

named a California Distinguished School, while on ten occasions the district has been awarded a J. Russell Kent Award for outstanding programs in San Mateo County public schools. Under Marilyn's stewardship, Hillsborough schools have also received four National Blue Ribbon Awards and in 1993, received the "Best in Services Recognition" from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

As both a principal and superintendent, Marilyn's tireless dedication has led to numerous public and private grants for her school system, including funding for science, technology, reading and reforming curriculum.

Madam Speaker, I know from personal experience that everything Marilyn has done in her educational career has been to further the excellence and opportunities of the children in her care. Nevertheless, she has been singled out for numerous personal recognitions, including being a finalist for the National Safety Council's Principal of the Year; elected President of the Association of California School Administrators; State Coordinator of the California Partnership Network Schools; Chairperson of the ACSA Middle School State Conference; and awarded College of Notre Dame, Belmont's Alumnus of the Year; Hinsdale, Illinois' Teacher of the Year; and San Mateo County's Outstanding Educator.

Marilyn has represented our community and our nation at international conferences, including presenting to the Stockholm School of Economics and serving as the United States representative to the New Leaders Conference in Singapore. In addition, she regularly attended the nationally-acclaimed Harvard University Superintendents' Forum.

Marilyn Miller studied History and English at the University of California, Berkeley before transferring to San Jose State University for her Education Degree. She went on to receive a Masters in Public Administration at Belmont's College of Notre Dame.

Madam Speaker, Marilyn has earned her retirement, even if the hole she leaves will be impossible to fill. She recently welcomed a new grandson, Cole, who with granddaughter, Erin, will happily occupy whatever free time Marilyn finds herself with. She and her always supportive husband, Dr. Arthur Miller, will now be able to spend more time with the little ones as well as their daughter Ashleigh and sons Garreth and Heath. As with all great public servants, their service is largely dependent on the amount of support they receive at home, so it is fitting to thank Marilyn's loving family for sharing their wife and mother with the greater community for all these years.

PACT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 1676, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009 or PACT Act. This bill was introduced by Representative WIENER of New York. This leg-

islation makes it a federal offense for any seller making a "delivery sale" to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax sampling laws. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I also thank my legislative director, Arthur D. Sidney.

Every year tens of billions of cigarettes disappear into a lucrative black market for tobacco products and are trafficked throughout the world. Smuggling harms public health and minors by undermining tobacco tax policies. Smuggling also makes tax-free cigarettes available to minors who might otherwise quit smoking. It is reported that cigarette smuggling also helps finance criminal activity and terrorist organizations.

By diverting cigarettes while they are in the wholesale distribution chain, large-scale smugglers generally avoid all taxes. Increasingly, cigarette smuggling is on the rise throughout the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that the number of ATF tobacco smuggling investigations has increased from 10 in 1998 to 425 in 2005. Some of these investigations and convictions have occurred in Texas.

Currently, the Jenkins Act, 15 USC 375, requires any person who sells and ships cigarettes across a state line to a buyer, other than a licensed distributor, to report the sale to the buyer's state tobacco collection officials. Compliance allows states to collect a cigarette excise tax. There are misdemeanor penalties for violation. Smugglers are circumventing the Jenkins Act by virtue of internet-based tobacco sales. Sales of tobacco through the internet have resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in tax revenue.

The Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, 18 USC 2342, makes it illegal for persons to knowingly ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase contraband cigarettes or contraband smokeless tobacco. It also prohibits a person from knowingly making any false statement or representation with respect to information required by law to be kept in the records of any person who ships, sells, distributes cigarettes in excess of 10,000 in a single transaction.

Cigarette smuggling is on the rise due to the internet and sales to and between Native American tribes and others. The PACT Act introduced by the Honorable Anthony Weiner makes it a federal offense for any seller to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax stamping laws. This bill also increases the Jenkins Act's existing penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony. It further empowers states to enforce the Jenkins Act against out of state sellers sending delivery sales into its territory by giving the Attorney General the power to seek injunctive relief and civil penalties. The Act prohibits the shipment of cigarettes and tobacco through the U.S. Postal Service and provides the ATF with the ability to inspect a distributor's business. Refusal to submit to inspection results in additional penalties. Internet sellers are required to verify a seller's age and identity through databases and the person accepting delivery must verify age and identity when signing for delivery.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN APPRECIATION OF BARBARA
PLETZ

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, San Mateo County has one of the most respected Emergency Medical Services agencies in the nation. Much of that success is due to EMS Program Administrator Barbara Pletz, who retires May 21st after 21 years of dedicated and inspired service.

Under Barbara's leadership, the San Mateo County EMS system has been transformed into a nationally recognized model of excellence. The department has been singled out for many honors, including the Award for Excellence from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International City-County Management's Award for Outstanding Partnerships, the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Public Safety from the League of California Cities, and a commendation from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

Barbara Pletz has advanced emergency medical services in San Mateo County by, among other things, encouraging public-private partnerships, working with hospitals to develop the County's Trauma and Stroke Plans and helping develop the San Mateo County Mental Health Assessment and Referral Treatment Program.

Ms. Pletz is a registered nurse with over 35 years of health care experience, including a quarter century in emergency medical services. She is past president of the Emergency Medical Services Agency Administrators' Association of California and was its Legislative Chair from 1998–2004. She is also past president of the California Emergency Department Nurses Association and was one of the very first commissioners on the California State EMS Commission.

Besides honors bestowed on her department, Ms. Pletz has received personal acclaim, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Emergency Nurses Association, the Circle of Service Award from the California State Association of California, and the Lawrence M. Herman Award for Legislative Advocacy from the American Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, all of us in San Mateo County are sorry to see Barbara go, but we wish her much joy and adventure as she pursues her love of travel and experiencing new foods and cultures. Our county is a better place because of her service and for that we are eternally grateful.

ENHANCED OVERSIGHT OF STATE
AND LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H.R. 2182, the "Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act." I would like to

thank my colleague Representative TOWNS for introducing this bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2182, amending the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Supporting this bill will ensure that those people responsible for monitoring and accounting the \$787 billion currently being allocated through the Recovery Act are able to do so both fairly and efficiently. I would also like to thank my legislative director, Mr. Arthur D. Sidney, for all his hard work.

This bill will require federal agencies receiving funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, subject to guidance from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to reasonably adjust applicable limits on administrative expenditures for federal awards to help award recipients defray costs of data collection, auditing, contract and grant planning and management, and investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse required under such Act.

The "Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act" modifies the Recovery Act and provides state and local governments the flexibility to set aside a portion of their stimulus funds, up to .5% of such funds, in addition to any funds already allocated to administrative expenditures, to conduct planning, management and oversight investigations to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse.

Furthermore, H.R. 2182 will permit the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) to provide for the use by state and local governments of GSA federal supply schedules for goods or services funded by such Act. The GSA schedules are pre-negotiated federal contracts for a range of common goods and services, for stimulus projects. In addition, this bill will make participation by a firm that sells to a state or local government through such schedule, voluntary as well as require the OMB Director to issue guidance to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of "jobs created" and "jobs retained" data.

There is much concern that state and local governments are unable to meet the oversight demands placed on them by the Recovery Act. The stimulus calls for unparalleled oversight and accountability, so we must provide those whose job it is to root out waste, fraud, and abuse with the adequate tools to get the job done. Our state and local governments are on the front lines of this monumental effort to fight mismanagement of Recovery Act dollars and their success is vital to making the stimulus work. Not initially providing funds for state auditors under the Recovery Act was an omission that needs to be rectified. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HEALTH WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 120 "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health." I would also like to extend my gratitude to my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative MAURICE D.

HINCHEY, for introducing this important legislation. I thank my legislative director, Arthur D. Sidney.

National Women's Health Week is a weeklong health observance coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). National Women's Health Week empowers women to make their health a top priority. With the theme "It's Your Time," the nationwide initiative encourages women to take simple steps for a longer, healthier, and happier life. During National Women's Health Week, communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups work together to educate women about steps they can take to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases. Important steps include: getting at least 2½ hours of moderate physical activity, 1 hour and 15 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or a combination of both each week; eating a nutritious diet; visiting a health care professional for regular checkups and preventive screenings; avoiding risky behaviors, like smoking and not wearing a seatbelt; and paying attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.

Research has established the existence of persistent racial and socioeconomic disparities in women's health in the United States. We know that coronary disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. But, nearly twice as many women in the U.S. die of heart disease and stroke every year as die from all types of cancer. Yet, multiple studies have shown that women are less likely than men to be referred for invasive cardiac procedures.

While the life expectancy of women in the United States has risen, as a group, African American women have a shorter life expectancy and experience earlier onset of such chronic conditions as diabetes and hypertension. If we look at the death rates for diseases of the heart, African American women are clearly at risk with 147 deaths per 100,000. When we look at cervical cancer, we see that the incidence rate of invasive cervical cancer is higher among Asian-American women. Yet, we cannot explain the causes of these higher rates.

Disparities are perhaps most alarming when we look at HIV/AIDS. Twenty-two percent of Americans currently living with HIV are women, and 77 percent of those are African American or Hispanic. Many people are shocked to know that AIDS is the second leading cause of death among African American women age 25 to 44.

There are nearly 40 million women in America who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups. These women suffer disproportionately from premature death, disease, and disabilities. Many also face tremendous barriers to optimal health. This is a growing challenge in our nation.

The challenge is even greater when we consider the aging population. By the year 2050, nearly 1 in 4 adult women will be 65 years old or older, and an astonishing 1 in 17 will be 85 years old or older. We must ensure that our Federal agencies are in the forefront, working to find solutions to the challenges our nation faces in caring for the health of our women.

It is important to celebrate National Women's Health Week to remind women that taking care of themselves is essential to living