

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND CIVILIAN POLICE COORDI-
NATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2009 (H.R. 675). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAM-
BLING STATE UNIVERSITY FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grambling State University (GSU) Tiger Football Team for becoming the State Farm Bayou Classic Champions, the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Champions and the Sheridan National Black College Champions for 2008.

By defeating Southern University 29–14 in the 35th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic on November 29, GSU won the SWAC West Division and earned the opportunity to meet Jackson State University (JSU) in the SWAC Championship Game. This battle provided the Tigers a rematch against the victors of last year's game.

On December 13, GSU secured their 10th consecutive win of the 2008 football season, making the Tigers the new champs of this competitive conference. This win marked the Tigers 22nd time to capture the SWAC Football Championship. In addition, GSU head coach Ron Broadway was named the SWAC Coach of the Year.

Shortly following this victory, the Tigers were crowned the Sheridan National Black College Champions—marking their 14th time to win this national title in the school's history. This outstanding recognition is the second earned by Broadway in three years.

The Tigers finished the season with an impressive 11–2 record—matching the record of the 2005 GSU Football Team, which also earned these titles.

I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the players, coaches, students and staff that were instrumental in these triumphs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2008 GSU Tiger Football Team for all of their successes achieved during this season.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF THE PILOT, CREW, AND RES-
CUERS OF US AIRWAYS FLIGHT
1549

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 84, legislation to honor the heroic efforts of Flight 1549's Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III, his flight crew, the First Responders and private citizens that prevented a catastrophic engine failure on a commercial aircraft from resulting in a single loss of life.

Just five minutes after lifting off on January 15, 2009, Captain Sullenberger's aircraft was struck by a flock of birds, resulting in the loss of two of his engines. The instant those engines failed, Captain Sullenberger, his crew, the passengers entrusted to his care, and residents of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey who were in the plane's potential flight path were at grave risk. And yet, rather than give in to panic, Captain Sullenberger wrestled his damaged aircraft into a controlled water landing—an act described in the Wall Street Journal as “one of the rarest and most technically challenging feats in commercial aviation.”

When his plane hit the water Captain Sullenberger and his flight crew—including First Officer Jeffrey Sikes and Flight Attendants Doreen Welsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail—worked quickly and calmly to evacuate their passengers, not stopping until every man, woman and child was out of harm's way. Outside, they were aided by a growing flotilla not just of Coast Guard and police boats, but civilian ferries as well.

Once Flight 1549 was emptied of passengers, Captain Sullenberger walked up and down the aisles of the sinking aircraft twice, only exiting when he was absolutely certain that he had discharged his duty to completely evacuate the plane. His grace under pressure, as well as that of the rescue workers and flight crew, ensured that an emergency in the air did not become a disaster on the ground.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 84. The courage, level-headed professionalism and sheer heroism of the Captain and crew of Flight 1549 are an inspiration to all Americans.

HONORING DEBRA JORDAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a true champion for the working families of eastern Connecticut. Debra Jordan of Plainfield, beloved daughter, wife and mother, passed away on January 25, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Debra was a consummate professional who cared deeply about the rights of working men and women. She was an active member of UNITE HERE, serving as local 217's sec-

retary-treasurer for more than 15 years. She fought tirelessly for the people with whom she worked, always believing that no matter what one's station in life might be, that everyone deserved to be treated fairly and justly.

Although her professional career was marked by her commitment to working families, it was the love of her own family that defined her life. Whether it was caring for her grandson Lucien Dube, or at the track watching her son Tim race, anyone who knew Debra could tell you that these were the moments that brought joy to her life and that great smile to her face. While we lament her passing, we know that her memory will live on in her beloved family, including her husband Patrick, to whom she was married for 25 years.

This has been a trying week for those of us who had the privilege to call Debra our friend. She left us too early, but as we grieve her we must remember the joy that she brought to the lives of all she touched. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Debra Jordan.

HONORING PURPLE HEART
RECIPIENT FRANCIS J. SEYFRIED

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Francis J. Seyfried. A proud member of our Nation's military during World War II, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was killed over the North Atlantic when his plane evaded enemy fire, crashed into another aircraft, and his parachute landed in the frigid Atlantic waters below.

Born on November 22, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Seyfried joined the Army Air Corps on January 30, 1943. Stationed in Europe, he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to perform bombing runs over enemy lines. It was during his 43rd such attack on December 31, 1944 that Mr. Seyfried lost his life in battle.

Commonly known as the Piggyback incident, the midair collision of two military planes caused a sensation amongst military members at the time. Returning from a bombing run over Hamburg, Germany, Staff Sergeant Seyfried's aircraft was evading enemy fire when his plane collided with another Allied aircraft. The two planes stuck together, with the engine of one plane dug completely into the engine of the other. Instead of separating and crashing separately, the two planes continued flying together in piggyback fashion. While ten of the crew members from the two planes did manage to escape safely, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was lost in the frigid North Atlantic waters off the German coast.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Francis J. Seyfried should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Seyfried's family with his long overdue Purple Heart. While he has passed on from this life, his family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR VIETNAM HEROES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have just re-introduced legislation intended to honor the service and sacrifice of many of the members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act" (H.R. 671).

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service". No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall, Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for the newer veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with those of other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Brandon Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1959, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce has contributed greatly to economic growth and development in the Brandon area and has served as a valuable resource for local businesses.

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce offers programs and services that foster meaningful partnerships between businesses as well as between businesses and educational facilities. It also monitors developments in local, State,

and federal government and helps coordinate member advocacy efforts.

The Chamber of Commerce provides a forum for future leaders from the Brandon area to grow and develop. It is also a great advocate for minority and women-owned businesses in the Brandon community.

In the past 10 years, membership in the Brandon Chamber has almost doubled, which is a tribute to both the employees at the Chamber and the economic vitality of the community. As Brandon has grown in size and flourished as a thriving metropolitan area, the Brandon Chamber has kept pace and helped facilitate the city's transition into a bustling commercial center.

During these challenging economic times, I know the Brandon community will look to and benefit from the guidance and expertise of the folks at the Chamber.

Under the skillful leadership of Chamber President Tammy Blackwell and the hard work of her team, I am confident the Chamber will continue to effectively serve, protect, and promote the businesses and economic interests of the Brandon community. Congratulations and best wishes on reaching this historic milestone.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman WAXMAN for addressing problems with the transition to digital television which was due to happen next month.

The simple fact is that millions of Americans are not prepared for the digital switch.

In Salt Lake City, Nielsen Media Research reports that nearly 9 percent of households are completely unprepared. Salt Lake ranks as the sixth least-ready out of 56 surveyed.

The coupons authorized by Congress 4 years ago—to help families acquire the hardware they need to view programs once the digital change is made—aren't getting to the customers.

Millions of Americans are currently waiting to receive the coupons. The agency charged with distributing them has fallen behind.

My office has been attempting to assist constituents with the program for several months. I know of cases where coupons have expired before they even reach consumer mail boxes. That's ridiculous.

I'd like to thank Chairman WAXMAN for working with the Senate to address concerns I raised about the coupon program. This is a Senate bill, but it is important to acknowledge the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee in trying to fix DTV problems.

The last thing families need right now is the prospect of additional monthly bills in order to watch television.

Finally, I am pleased to see that this bill allows for emergency services to begin using some analog space. It also provides flexibility by allowing broadcasters who are ready-to-go to switch to digital service earlier than June, which is a good idea.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 328, the DTV Delay Act.

Since 1996, our nation's first-responders have been calling for more broadcast spectrum to be made available for better and more effective communication among emergency services. Tragically, the lack of such spectrum was cited by experts as partially leading to many unnecessary deaths among those responding to the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City. In fact, completing the digital television transition so that this spectrum may be used by police, firefighters, and emergency personnel was the main communications-related recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

In 2005, after years of delay, Congress finally established February 17, 2009 as the date when the country will switch to all-digital broadcasting and eliminate the disruptions to public safety communications. Unfortunately, after more than a decade of preparing for the transition, the bill before us today would delay the digital transition for another three months.

Like many Delawareans, I am concerned about the management of the digital transition process and the shortfall in the number of converter box coupons available. It is critical that we act quickly to provide additional resources to address these complications and ensure our constituents are prepared for the transition date. Still, public safety services and broadcasters have spent millions of dollars preparing for the February 17th transition date and postponing the deadline again will only create more confusion and delay the implementation of this vital 9/11 Commission recommendation.

IN MEMORY OF BETH SHARON SAMUELS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, this month marks the second anniversary of the passing of Beth Sharon Samuels, an extraordinary Angelino who lost her life to cancer in January 2007 at the age of 31.

Beth grew up in Los Angeles, attending the Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles and graduating as valedictorian. She went on to study at a women's seminary in Israel before graduating from Columbia University with a degree in mathematics. She then completed a three-year program at the Drisha Institute in Bible and Talmud, a Ph.D. in math at Yale, and earned an assistant professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. In the meantime, she gave birth to a daughter Danelle and later to daughter Natalia while undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Beth remains with us, even with increasing distance from her passing. We remember her passion for learning and zealous commitment to charity, her open spirit and fierce dedication