

needed assistance. Carrier Polnow continued to the third vehicle, a van used to transport handicapped and wheelchair-bound individuals, which was beginning to burn. The driver's airbag had deployed, and the driver alerted Carrier Polnow to a handicapped passenger still inside the smoke-filled van.

With smoke continuing to circulate and flames erupting from the engine, Carrier Polnow went to work. He managed to free the side door that had been jammed by a ramp. Maneuvering the ramp into place, he unhooked the restraining belts and dragged the wheelchair—and the now terrified woman passenger—from the vehicle. Once free from the smoke, Carrier Polnow located the controls on the chair and engaged them to move the woman to safety.

Acts of bravery and fortitude such as this should not go unnoticed. Carrier Polnow's heroism has led him to be recognized by the National Association of Letter Carriers with the National Central Hero Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Carrier Polnow, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

#### TRIBUTE TO ED HAMAN

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ed Haman of Stanhope, Iowa, on his dedication to the community of Stanhope and his retirement as Fire Chief at the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Department after forty-one years of service.

The community of Stanhope is celebrating the retirement of this extraordinary man, but I feel it is imperative that we as a Congress celebrate Ed as an example of incredible and valuable citizenship. His service to his community, Iowa, and our nation represents an ideal that should be an inspiration for all Americans.

I commend Ed Haman for his many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent Ed in Congress, and I wish him and his family in Stanhope, Iowa, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act and thank Congressman MILLER for his leadership on this bill. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this historic legislation. In a time of economic crisis and increased hard-

ship across the United States, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act ensures that students and families are supported in realizing their education goals.

Access to quality education is a key factor in securing a successful and bright future. This legislation makes historical investments to expand access to education by investing in high-quality early childhood education and increasing college affordability. It invests in community colleges and partnerships with businesses and job training programs to ensure that our nation has the most qualified workforce.

The bill ensures that the success of the students, not the private loan companies, is at the center of the student loan system by converting all federal student lending to a Direct Loan program. In addition, it increases access to federal loans by simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. I am also pleased that the bill provides for the removal of the question regarding first-time, minor drug offenses on the FAFSA form. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, lower-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately denied access to critical federal loans due to the inclusion of this question on the FAFSA form. We have a responsibility to ensure that students wishing to improve themselves and contribute positively to our society are given the chance to do so.

As a strong proponent of early childhood education and the sponsor of H.R. 555, the Universal Prekindergarten Act, I strongly support the establishment of the Early Learning Challenge Fund in this bill. The Early Learning Challenge Fund invests \$8 billion dollars over the next eight years for increasing access to high-quality early childhood education for children of diverse economic and social backgrounds.

I am particularly pleased that two of my amendments are included in this bill. I worked with Congressman Hare on our amendment to expand reporting requirements to include reporting on barriers to high-quality early childhood education programs. Investment in developing and expanding access to high-quality early learning programs is critical in addressing the achievement gap for low-income children.

The other amendment in this bill was taken up as part of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, which provides schools access to funds for modernization, renovation and repair projects that are safer and more energy efficient. My amendment ensures that those school funds can be used to remove sources of lead in drinking water such as pipes, solder and pipe fittings. Childhood exposure to lead has been associated with (see health effects from the press release)

I believe that access to quality education is a universal right. This legislation takes important steps to ensure that students of all social and economic backgrounds are afforded the opportunity to attend high-quality educational institutions. I strongly urge passage of this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 738, a resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). I am an original cosponsor of this resolution to support the goals and ideals of VAWA. Today we recognize the progress that has been made in reducing domestic violence in our country but also the significant work that remains.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) began creating safe havens for families affected by domestic violence. This historic legislation has succeeded in making America's women more safe and secure and it has strengthened America's response to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Victims of domestic violence are now more able to access services and counseling during their darkest hours and prosecutors have the tools to pursue perpetrators. VAWA is working to bring communities together by coordinating law enforcement officers, victim advocates and prosecutors.

No one should have to live in fear or suffer in silence from domestic violence. We as society must provide sufficient resources to federal, state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors who specialize in crimes targeted against women. We must also support organizations that offer services to women and families who have experienced violence.

Domestic violence hurts families and entire communities. The communities of Minnesota's Fourth District learned this all too well on September 7, 2009, when North St. Paul police officer Richard Crittenden and Maplewood police officer Julie Olson answered a domestic violence call—one of the most dangerous an officer can receive. Officer Richard Crittenden was killed and Officer Olson was injured in the line of duty. Officer Crittenden made the ultimate sacrifice—his life—to protect a woman from a man who had repeatedly abused her.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to acknowledge all those who work to reduce domestic violence in communities across our country. Much has been accomplished in the last fifteen years, but the number of incidents of violence against women still remains too high. On this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to ending domestic violence.

#### CITY OF PLAINFIELD'S 10TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA). The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority has provided the City of Plainfield with a stable and affordable solid waste operation and sanitary sewer service for

more than a decade. With many investments and accomplishments in the City of Plainfield, the utility authority is a mainstay in the community. It is not only the fifth largest employer of the City of Plainfield, it also holds an annual Environmental Fair. I am pleased to support Plainfield's continued efforts to positively impact both the economy and the environment.

I very much look forward to the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority's 10th Annual Environmental Fair on September 12, 2009. In its 10th year, this festive, community-based fair symbolizes a progressive shift toward bettering the environment. This is an important milestone for the City of Plainfield and it coincides with our hard work on energy issues.

The PMUA has done an excellent job over the years of promoting environmental awareness, particularly among the youth. The annual Environmental Fair demonstrates this achievement by featuring fun activities for children. The fair also provides the community with information about utilities, recycling and community services through vendors, public and environmental agencies and civic organizations.

This year's theme of "Conserve and Save" is a message by which we must all abide, for a safe, sustainable, clean energy future.

Congratulations to the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority and the City of Plainfield.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHERYL HAMAN

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cheryl Haman of Stanhope, Iowa, on her dedication to the community of Stanhope as a librarian since 1976.

The community of Stanhope is celebrating this amazing woman, but I feel that we in Washington should praise the contributions of librarians in America and recognize Mrs. Haman for her years of dedication to the town of Stanhope. Her service to the community, Iowa, and our nation represents an ideal that should be an inspiration for all Americans.

I commend Cheryl for her many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent Cheryl in Congress, and I know she will serve as a role model of valuable citizenship to Stanhope and all of Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL HEFNER

##### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to a great American servant in light of his passing on September 2, 2009, former Congressman Bill Hefner, who died of a brain aneurysm at the age of 79 years old.

Bill Hefner served for 24 years in the House of Representatives and was a committed and devoted husband and father.

Mr. Hefner joined the U.S. House back in 1975 and was later considered the dean of

North Carolina's U.S. House delegation. He represented the Eighth Congressional District of North Carolina, which includes cities like Charlotte suburbs, Kannapolis and Concord and other cities like Monroe and Laurinburg. He served in Congress from January 3, 1975 until January 3, 1999.

I had the honor to also serve with Bill Hefner on the House Appropriations Committee. As a member of the Committee he fought for funding for Fort Bragg in his home state when he was chairman and later ranking minority member of the military subcommittee.

Mr. Hefner also prided himself in working very hard on veterans' issues and transportation projects that benefited the entire East Coast.

Having spent much of his life growing up in the district I represent, Bill Hefner decided to retire in the Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. In 1998, Bill Hefner moved to Gunterville in Marshall County to enjoy the beauty that North Alabama has to offer.

After his time in Congress, his days of public service were not over. Congressman Hefner served from October of 2001 until November of 2002 as a District Commissioner for Marshall County, Alabama.

What most people don't know about Bill Hefner is that the 12-term Democratic Congressman was also a southern gospel singer and was a founding member of the very popular Harvesters Quartet, which began in 1953 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Hefner was born in Elora, Tennessee and graduated from high school in Sardis, which is located in North Alabama. He graduated college from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Mr. Hefner leaves behind his wife, Nancy, and two daughters, Stacey and Shelly. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family and the many fans of southern gospel music, like myself, who will always remember his great tenor voice.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

##### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. On this day eight years ago, those attacks struck a heavy blow to American citizens in an effort to crush the American spirit of freedom. The attacks were the first significant attacks on the continental United States since the burning of Washington in 1814 and the deadliest attack on American soil in our nation's history. On that day, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives in a senseless act of hatred and cowardice.

Today, let us remember those whose lives were lost. Let us remember the people who were trapped when the Twin Towers fell and the brave New York firefighters, policemen, policewomen and rescue workers who sacrificed their lives to help them. Let us remember the passengers onboard flights American 11, United 175, American 77 and United 93. Let us remember those who died in the attack on the Pentagon.

This horrible event filled us with outrage, loss and fear; outrage at the idea that our enemies would attack us while we went about our daily lives, loss as we remember those who did not survive, and fear that we were no longer safe. Instead of being consumed by fear and doubt, we remained strong and determined. Since that day eight years ago, we have worked hard to secure our country from those who would do us harm. Through our actions, we have returned the sense of security the attacks took from us.

Although these attacks left us shaken, they did not destroy us. We were able to rebound and grow stronger. We put aside our differences and banded together as a nation. On that day, we were not concerned with past disagreements or misunderstandings. This year, on September 11, let us not only remember those we lost with moments of silence and memorial ceremonies. Let us also commemorate them by once again setting aside our differences and banding together as Americans.

#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARROW. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman MILLER, and Ranking Member KLINE, for working with me to include an amendment I offered in the Manager's Amendment of this bill.

I believe The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will make college education more affordable for more American students than ever before, transform early education opportunities, and ultimately help build a stronger, more competitive American economy for the future, while saving taxpayers money.

For the reforms in this bill to be effective, it's critical that our colleges and universities have the right tools to make these reforms as successful as possible. My amendment requires the Secretary of Education to provide funding and technical assistance to institutions of higher education in operating the Direct Loan program, including assisting institutions with the transition into the program.

Right now, college costs more than ever, while families are struggling more than ever. Allowing our students to graduate with a better education and less debt is the best way to make sure that American workers remain competitive long into the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK READ

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jack Read of