

values of equality, due process of law, justice and fundamental fairness. This resolution embodies the ideals and precepts that we hold so dear in the United States. I support this resolution and I strongly encourage my colleagues to do the same.

As a Senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I know the importance of due process, fairness, and equality. Indeed, as a child of the Civil Rights Movement, I have championed these uniquely American precepts that are the bedrock of our Democracy. We must never forget this fundamental infringement of civil rights that had a deleterious and one-sided effect upon a race of Americans. We must never forget so that we will never repeat the tragic horrors of that era. Spawned by a fear of a race during a time of war, this Great Country was led to do act and behave toward a race in a way that we must never allow again.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the forced internment of both United States citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II. This Executive Order resulted in the largest single relocation of individuals in the history of our Nation. As a result of this relocation, 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps by the United States Government in violation of their fundamental constitutional rights.

Japanese-Americans faced tremendous hardships due to their unjust treatment. The hardships this group faced were reminiscent of the days of slavery where families were torn asunder and faced separation. Individuals endured the loss of their homes, businesses, jobs, and their dignity.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 9066, Japanese-Americans in the western United States, specifically Washington, Oregon, California, and southern Arizona were ordered to report to so called assembly centers before being removed to more permanent wartime relocation centers.

The Merced Assembly Center, located in Merced, California, was the reporting site for nearly 5,000 Japanese-Americans. Sadly, as a child, United States Congressman MIKE HONDA and his family were held at the Merced Assembly Center prior to being interned in Amache, Colorado. Through this tragedy and sadness, and in spite of this situation, Representative HONDA forged a public career dedicated to educating and preventing this type of injustice from ever occurring again in this great country.

The Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee has been charged with the task of establishing a memorial to recognize the historic tragedy that took place at the Merced Assembly Center. The unveiling ceremony for the memorial at the Merced Assembly Center will take place on February 21, 2009.

I stand today to support this resolution. As a champion of civil rights for all Americans, I will continue to fight to ensure that Americans are treated fairly, humanely, and to the letter of the Constitution. I urge my colleagues to stand with me today to support this resolution and to continue to fight against prejudice in this country. As Members of Congress, we must never forget the injustice of the Japa-

nese internment in this country and all of us need to continue in the fight to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly under law without regard to the race, color, creed, sexual orientation or any other form of differentiation.

Mr. Speaker. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR MILITARY RECRUITERS ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Fairness for Military Recruiters Act, legislation that supports the efforts of our armed forces to recruit talented young Americans from our nation's high schools. This legislation reaffirms and strengthens existing federal law, enacted in 2001 under the No Child Left Behind Act, that provides military recruiters the same access to high school campuses and basic student contact information that is given to institutions of higher education.

Before the enactment of No Child Left Behind, it was reported that nearly 2,000 high schools across the country either banned military recruiters from their campuses or restricted access to student directories. Since then, despite some early opposition from several school boards and administrators, military recruiters have maintained regular and unrestricted access to high schools nationwide.

Under current law, any high school that receives federal education funding must provide military recruiters access to its campus and student directories—the same access that is provided to colleges and universities. At the same time, schools are required to notify parents and students of their right to “opt-out” of the program. A request from a parent is all it takes for a student not be contacted or approached directly by a military recruiter.

This is a straightforward, balanced approach to ensuring that students are familiar with the education and career opportunities offered by any one of our military service branches. Military service promotes discipline, self-esteem and a strong work-ethic, and young Americans should not be discouraged from serving their country or simply exploring the benefits of serving in the armed forces.

Of course, there are some school administrators and activist groups that oppose the idea of military recruiters contacting high-school students. There are even reported cases of these groups, known as “counter-recruiters,” attending parent-teacher conferences and loitering outside schools with opt-out forms in hand. Likewise, administrators have creatively interpreted notification and consent requirements in the interest of denying recruiters access to student contact information.

Students and parents should make the decision to opt-out on their own, without influence from activists and administrators with anti-military bias. Families that recognize and honor the commitment of our military to defending the freedom of the American people should not be represented by the small minority of those who actively seek to denigrate our armed forces.

The legislation I am introducing today simply reaffirms current law by protecting the right of

parents and students to opt-out while also maintaining military recruiter access to high school campuses and directories. Schools would still be obligated to notify parents and students of their options, ensuring there is a mechanism in place that prevents the contact information of those who wish not to be contacted from being released.

The alternative suggested by some of my colleagues, particularly in anticipation of the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is to create an opt-in process. In other words, military recruiters would be denied access to student information unless parents send in a release authorization form. They question whether the recruitment provision violates a student's right to privacy, even though it is consistent with federal law and court-tested privacy rights. An analysis by the Congressional Research Services also acknowledges this fact, noting that, unlike medical records, the basic information available to recruiters is no different than the information “typically found in a phone book.”

The legislation specifically prohibits the implementation of an opt-in process and clarifies the notification and consent requirement by placing the personal information and career interests of students firmly in the control of parents. Only parents, legal guardians or students 18 years of age, could make a written request that contact information not be released.

Madam Speaker, our national security continues to hinge on patriotic and talented Americans coming forward and volunteering military service. Restricting recruiter access to high schools would serve to reduce the quality of our armed forces and undoubtedly constrain the ability of students to consider military education and career opportunities.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort as we continue working to strengthen our national security and raise awareness about the education and career benefits provided through military service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the Fairmount Presbyterian Church was founded in 1833 by the Nickel family and is celebrating its 175th anniversary in Licking Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of 25 celebrated that milestone with a special service on September 21st and a recreation of a famous photo of the congregation on the mound next to the church taken in 1923, and

Whereas, the founding of the Fairmount Presbyterian Church occurred when one member of the Nickel family passed the spot of land where it now sits and remarked that it was the “prettiest place” he had ever seen. Three years later, the land that serves as the parish's cemetery was donated, creating the Fairmount Cemetery adjacent to the historic church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend

the Fairmount Presbyterian Church 175 years of dedication and service to the Licking township community and their continued remembrance of their founding and occupation of what was called the "prettiest place" the founder had ever seen.

RESTORING OUR AMERICAN
MUSTANGS (ROAM) ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in the 19th Century, it is estimated that as many as 2 million wild horses and burros ranged freely across the American West. Some of them were of noble birth, with blood lines stretching back to the horses which carried Spanish explorers into the New World; all of them were part of the fabric of the romance and the history of the American West.

As wild animals living on public land, management of these horses and burros fell to the Federal government, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, BLM. Unfortunately, many decades of underfunding and inhumane management practices combined to destroy these wild herds, leaving fewer than 25,000 wild horses and burros on public lands by the early 1970s.

Starting in the 1950s, the American public became aware of the cruelty, disease and death suffered by these iconic animals, thanks in large part to the actions of one woman, Mrs. Velma Bronn Johnston—better known by the nickname she earned—Wild Horse Annie. The crusade she started—which included a massive letter-writing campaign and eventually a beloved children's book—culminated in 1971 with enactment of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The Act stated clearly that:

Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

While this landmark legislation resulted in significant improvements in the management of these herds, our experience since 1971 has demonstrated that the law was far from perfect. While the Act identified 53 million acres of public land on which these herds could roam freely, the BLM has removed horses and burros from nearly 19 million of those acres for a variety of reasons. Since 1971, more than 200,000 wild horses and burros have been removed from public land and either adopted or placed in long-term holding facilities. Six states have lost their entire population of wild horses and burros. Recently, the BLM announced that a combination of a lack of funding, facilities and options may require the killing of as many as 30,000 healthy wild horses and burros. Clearly, the laws and policies in place since 1971 need updating.

A recent investigation by the Government Accountability Office identified many of the problems plaguing the wild horse and burro program within BLM. This legislation amends the 1971 Act to implement the changes suggested by the GAO.

This legislation would remove outdated limits on the areas where wild horses and burros can roam freely, allowing the BLM flexibility to find additional, suitable acreage. The bill would strengthen the BLM's adoption program, require consistency and accuracy in the management of these herds, allow more public involvement in management decisions, facilitate the creation of sanctuaries for wild horses and burros on public land and place significant new limitations on the authority to remove these animals from the wild. Finally, the legislation would prohibit the killing of healthy wild horses and burros.

Madam Speaker, introduction of this legislation is the beginning, not the end, of this process. There are many stakeholders—here in Congress, in the agencies and among members of the public—who are invested in this issue. I look forward to working with all parties in an effort to craft a final bill that would make Wild Horse Annie proud.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STATE
VIDEO TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF
2009"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced, along with my Judiciary Committee colleagues RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, JIM JORDAN of Ohio, and JAMES SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, the State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation is a consumer-minded effort to prevent States from enacting taxes that may be designed to advantage one form of video transmission over another. This legislation preserves a level playing field between competitors while protecting State revenue prerogatives.

This legislation accomplishes three goals:

First, consumers will benefit from lower prices, because States will impose only fair and nondiscriminatory video transmission taxes, on all providers.

Second, competition will strengthen in the paid television programming industry, because this legislation will ensure that no provider will be unfairly favored by discriminatory tax policies.

Third, States will continue to have the ability to raise revenue, because this legislation does not hinder their ability to do so, as long as they do so in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner.

This legislation incorporates changes adopted by the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law at markup during the last Congress. Those changes include providing grandfather protection to those States that, as of January 1, 2008, had already enacted video programming tax structures that would violate the new requirement. The six States whose tax structures would be protected are Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Utah.

This legislation also includes several technical changes to conform the language to certain State tax laws with respect to the methods by which multichannel video programming distribution services are delivered, and clarifies a tax as discriminatory "if the net tax rate imposed on one means of providing multichannel video service is higher than the net tax rate imposed on another."

This legislation ensures that States could not selectively reduce the effective tax rate by imposing the same tax rate on services, but then reimbursing certain costs borne by specific providers, as some States have done.

The State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009 will give households that pay for television programming service the assurance that they can choose to receive very similar services, such as from cable or satellite providers, without having to wonder whether subscribing to a particular service will entail paying more in taxes than if they had chosen a different service.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and Representatives BOUCHER, JORDAN, and SENBRENNER, by cosponsoring the "State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
JEWETT UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Jewett United Methodist Church was founded in 1908 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary in Jewett, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of Quinn Jewett United Methodist Church celebrated this milestone with weekend of events, ceremonies, and services between October 3rd and October 5th, 2008; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly two centuries of dedication and service to the Chillicothe community and their efforts to preach equality and faith among all races and religions throughout the years.

CONGRATULATING ERIN HAMLIN
ON WINNING THE 41ST LUGE
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young athlete, Erin Hamlin, on her victory in the 41st Luge World Championship in Lake Placid, New York on February 6th, 2009.

Erin snapped a twelve-year German winning streak by posting times of 44.113 and 43.985 seconds, a new Lake Placid track record, for a combined time of one minute, 28.098 seconds. She is one of only two U.S. athletes ever to win a luge world crown.