

Mr. HIMES. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act which has been included in the base bill of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2009.

It is expected that more than 12 million Americans will take a cruise vacation in 2009 alone. Passengers on cruises have an inadequate understanding of their potential vulnerability to crime, and those who may be victimized lack the information they need to understand their legal rights or to know who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of a crime.

Cruise ships, which operate under foreign flags of convenience, are not required under U.S. law to report crimes that occur outside of U.S. territorial waters.

Travelers on water deserve the same protections as travelers on land, and taking a few extra measures to protect passengers will lead to more enjoyable, safer trips and better results for victims of crimes.

To enhance the safety of cruise passengers, the owners of cruise vessels need to upgrade, modernize, and retrofit the safety and security infrastructure on their vessels. They need to install peep holes in passenger doors, raise standard ship railings, install security video cameras and limit access to passenger rooms.

In addition, passenger vessel crew members must be trained on the appropriate methods for prevention, detection, evidence preservation, and reporting of criminal activities. In the event that a crime should occur, it is of utmost importance that the crime scene or any potential evidence is not tampered with before the FBI can begin its investigation.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention my predecessor, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and the fight he began to improve safety on cruise ships and protect cruise ship passengers years ago. Congressman SHAYS took on this charge after one of our constituents, George Smith, was the victim of a crime in international waters while on his honeymoon in 2005. The investigation surrounding Mr. Smith's disappearance remains open to this day. Had the safety improvements and post-incident regulations mandated by the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act been in place in 2005, this horrible tragedy might have been prevented. I proudly stand alongside the Smith family and the Cruise Victims Association as they continue their fight for justice every day. Together, we work to honor Mr. Smith's death so no family will ever have to suffer again from this type of tragic crime.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND FEMALE VETERANS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans.

Every time I visit military installations, both at home and abroad, I am constantly im-

pressed by the tremendous job our service members are doing.

And I am always particularly struck by the essential and natural role our brave servicewomen play in so many parts of our Armed Services.

There are close to 350,000 American women currently serving in our Armed Forces.

And it's hard to believe they were only granted permanent status in the regular and Reserve Armed Forces in 1948—because women were certainly making their mark well before then.

Women have voluntarily served in every military conflict in our country's history since the Revolutionary War.

They have been on the frontlines as nurses, waterbearers, and even saboteurs.

For years, dedicated women had to disguise themselves as men in order to enlist in our military.

Today, that's not the case—our servicewomen play an increasingly important role in America's military forces, and our country is the better for it.

Women are flying helicopters and fighter aircrafts; they are saving lives as nurses and doctors; they are driving support vehicles and policing perimeters.

They do not seek special recognition, but I believe it is important to understand and recognize the additional burdens that are inherent in the many roles they play outside of work—as wives, mothers, and caretakers.

The resolution recognizes the sacrifices our servicewomen and their families make to keep our country safe.

As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Women in the Military and Veterans, I am privileged to honor the legacy of servicewomen in the past, the courage with which women serve today, and the enthusiasm of the young women who dream of serving this great nation in the future.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

TOM CONNELLY MARKS THIRTY YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF NAHRO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on October 9th of this year, one of the leaders in increasing the supply of affordable housing in the State of Massachusetts, Tom Connelly, marked his 30th anniversary as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MassNAHRO). I have benefitted enormously in my work on housing in the Committee on Financial Services from Mr. Connelly's good judgment, his broad and deep knowledge of all aspects of housing matters, and his passion for helping this become a fairer society.

NAHRO nationally has been a great partner for those of us trying to improve the housing

situation for many in this country. One of the strong aspects of NAHRO's work is their continued recognition that for many low-income people, the answer for their housing needs is not homeownership but decent rental housing, and a failure to understand this is one of the contributing factors to the housing crisis that led to our current recession. NAHRO, MassNAHRO and Tom Connelly in particular have been supportive of appropriate efforts to promote homeownership, but they have also understood the importance for a very large number of low-income people of affordable rental housing, so they are not pushed into inappropriate home mortgages.

Madam Speaker, in his thirty years as Executive Director, Tom Connelly has set a high standard for organizational leadership and for housing policy. And I should add that among the contributions he has made to the field of housing is his daughter, Meredith, who works on housing matters for the Committee on Financial Services and carries on her father's tradition of doing excellent work for the housing needs of low-income people.

Madam Speaker, I submit this statement for the RECORD because I hope that people will look at the work that Tom Connelly has done and that it will serve as a model for those interested in helping with housing issues.

CONGRATULATING IVAN "IKE" ACKERMAN

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ivan "Ike" Ackerman on his retirement as Mayor of the city of Waverly. At the end of the year, Ike Ackerman will be retiring after serving 12 years as Mayor.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Ackerman has been a proven leader in moving the city of Waverly forward and bringing the community together. With Mayor Ackerman's command, the city of Waverly has seen successes from economic development to upgrading the city's wellness opportunities.

Waverly is one of northeast Iowa's fastest growing communities with a highly diversified economic base. Mayor Ackerman has focused on bringing new life to old Waverly through downtown revitalization, economic development and new recreational facilities.

During Mayor Ackerman's tenure the city of Waverly experienced the worst flooding the city had seen in decades. In June of 2008, the Cedar River reached a record high and 25 percent of the community was impacted by the dangerous waters. The city suffered millions of dollars in damages. With Mayor Ackerman's leadership the city is rebuilding, putting in place future mitigation plans, and revitalizing the community one day at a time.

With Mayor Ackerman's retirement we are losing years of institutional knowledge and a champion for the needs of Waverly residents. I am proud to represent Mayor Ackerman and the city of Waverly in Congress. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.

HONORING RICHARD H. BENNETT,
PASCO, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Richard H. Bennett of Shady Hills, FL. A proud member of our Nation's military during Vietnam, Mr. Bennett honorably defended the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

Born on August 10, 1949 to Harry and Claire Bennett in Canandaigua, New York, Richard began his service to the Army in June of 1969. Shortly thereafter he was deployed to Vietnam where he fought courageously, putting his life on the line every day. During his tour he suffered shrapnel in his back on account of gunfire, wounds to his left arm and left leg due to an ambush firefight in the jungle, and was exposed to Agent Orange. Along with his Purple Heart Medal, Mr. Bennett is a recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Following Mr. Bennett's service in the Army, he worked with "Somebody Loves You Ministries" helping the less fortunate improve their lives.

Madam Speaker, it is important to recognize Americans like Richard H. Bennett for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. Our Nation, this Congress, and Mr. Bennett's family and friends, will always remember his bravery and dedication.

HONORING ELEANOR CAINES 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the life of a wonderful American and personal friend, Eleanor Caines, as she celebrates her 100th Birthday.

I know that I join family and friends in extending our best wishes as she reaches this special life milestone.

It has been my privilege to know Eleanor for more than three decades as we attended Maitland's Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

Nearly always several pews in front of the Mica family, Eleanor has been one of the most faithful parishioners of the congregation.

Her special smile, warm greeting and positive glow have brightened both the day and the path of those she meets!

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, whose family hailed from Massachusetts, Eleanor honorably served in the WACS during World War II. She and her late husband, Basil, who passed in 1982, resided in Central Florida.

Active in Church and community affairs, the Boston University graduate has faithfully been a strong supporter of veterans and university alumni affairs.

It is wonderful people like Eleanor Caines who every day of their lives have worked and

contributed to make this a great nation. I know that I join her niece and nephew, Charlotte and David Hunt, family and friends at Mayflower and fellow parishioners at the Church of the Good Shepherd in extending our best wishes to Eleanor Caines as she celebrates this special birthday. I know my colleagues also join in saying thank you to a special American, Eleanor Caines!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll-call No. 804. If present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK CITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2166 IN
SUPPORT OF H.R. 22 AND 658

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Council of the city of New York's Resolution No. 2166, calling upon the U.S. House to pass H.R. 658—the Access to Postal Services Act. Thanks to our work in Congress, H.R. 22—the U.S. Postal Service Financial Relief Act, has passed the House and similar legislation has cleared the Senate. This great legislation assists the U.S. Postal Service with financial expenses and stops the unnecessary closure of neighborhood post offices, increasing community input as the Postal Service reorganizes its branches throughout the city of New York.

If we do not follow-up with the speedy passage of H.R. 658, the Postal Service will be forced to close over 700 locations throughout the United States, including 53 locations in New York city alone. In addition to the borough of Queens, Manhattan will be adversely affected with the closure of 25 locations, which includes my Harlem community.

In my own district, the Tejeda Post Office was almost a victim to these closures. The well-regarded institution was named after a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment who was killed during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq on April 11, 2003. He died at the tender age of 26. But thanks to the help of people like District Leader Maria Luna, City Councilman Robert Jackson and Assemblyman Denny Farrell and Adriano Espailat, as well as Councilmember-Elect Ydanis Rodriguez, Community Board 12, and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, a grassroots coalition came together and demanded that it remain open.

We ought to work to make sure that nothing of the sort happens in communities across this great nation. Both these bills will assist people in staying connected with the world, while not hoisting greater financial burdens on New Yorkers or other Americans who rely on these nearby post offices. Senior citizens and low-income Americans would be most vulnerable to

these shutdowns, and as Americans, we ought to look after the most vulnerable in our society. May the Congress work as quickly as it can to alleviate this problem and ensure that these post offices remain open.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF JONESBOROUGH VETERANS PARK

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to recognize and commend the town of Jonesborough and Washington County for its 10th year anniversary of the Jonesborough Veterans Park. In 1999, Washington County celebrated this park at the groundbreaking ceremony, and on Memorial Day of 2000, the Jonesborough Veterans' Park construction was completed.

Memorial Day of 2000 was extra special for veterans all throughout Washington County because of the Jonesborough Veterans Park.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced a Resolution, congratulating the Jonesborough Veterans Park for their 10th anniversary and for a decade of successful management and preservation of the park land. This will be a reminder that we in the First District are committed to honoring our veterans.

I want to thank the volunteers in Washington County who worked on this park and who remain dedicated to honoring our veterans.

CHAIRMAN SEUNG YOUN KIM'S
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE
PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN
AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING
TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FALEOMVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Seung Youn Kim, Chairman of the Hanwha Group, in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

OCTOBER 1, 2009.

Hon. ENI FALEOMVAEGA,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMVAEGA: I would like to offer my deepest condolences to you and the people of Samoa for the losses and sufferings caused by the natural disaster yesterday.

Everyone in my family was shocked by seeing the devastated sites of Pago Pago and Leone through the media, I am greatly concerned on the tragic news, not as a bystander but a personal friend of yours.

I can only imagine the grief that you must feel and the immensity of the tasks you face, but I also know that you are a man of undefeatable courage who will once again lead the way out from this disaster. It is slightly relieving to me that acts of courage and kindness surfaced and that the U.S. government and the international society take