

have sought solutions to cover the more than 47 million Americans without health care.

Already this year we have dramatically increased health care coverage for low-income and uninsured children.

We've also modernized the health care system to lower costs and save lives by investing in Health Information Technology systems.

It is reassuring to see that the President's budget puts aside more than \$630 billion over the next 10 years to reform health care, reduce Medicare overpayments to private insurers, and reduce drug prices. By tackling this issue we can rein in the high costs that are a drag on the entire economy.

The commitment by the New Dems and President Obama to health care is working to not only do the right thing but to ensure America and its children remain competitive in today's global economy.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

### HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this Tuesday marked an historic day for science and medical research efforts across our country as President Obama lifted the ban on federally funded stem cell research enacted in 2001. With this executive order, the President has restored the federal government's commitment to funding promising medical research with the potential to treat and cure some of the most debilitating human diseases.

One of the great promises of stem cells is their potential for use in developing new therapies for life altering diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and Parkinson's. Stem cell research offers the hope of a better life to millions of Americans, and by supporting this research we will open the door for groundbreaking discoveries at research facilities like Scripps Florida. The President has been clear that stem cell research in this country will not be undertaken lightly, and will only be conducted in the most responsible, ethical manner possible, with strict guidelines to prevent misuse and abuse.

Funding stem cell research is also a great investment in our future, not only from a personal health standpoint but from an economical and cost-efficiency perspective. Finding cures and therapies may reduce the cost of hospitalization and other expensive components of our health care system. By increasing our investment in stem cell research, we can also retain and attract some of the best and brightest scientists that have, up to now, been stifled by restrictions on which stem cell lines they may use for their research. The United States has always been a world leader in science and technology, and with this ban lifted, we can once again conduct the most cutting-edge research right here in the U.S. that will bring the next big breakthroughs in the world of medicine.

From juvenile diabetes to paralysis, the potential of stem cell research in all of its forms presents one of humanity's greatest leaps toward the ultimate goal of preserving, prolonging and improving the quality of our lives. As a strong advocate of this research, I com-

mend the President for his commitment to funding comprehensive stem cell research in the United States.

#### COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

### HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Business Award winner is Ann Minzner Conley, the vice president of Loss Control Services for Chubb Commercial Insurance.

Ann is the company's executive-liability specialist. She mentors young adults considering careers in science and engineering, and also coaches youth soccer and plays on the Basking Ridge Mavericks women's soccer team.

I am pleased to congratulate Ann Minzner Conley on her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD M. SCHOELL

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard M. Schoell, Executive Director of the Office of Governmental Relations at the University of Illinois. Rick recently announced his retirement from the University after spending 22 years of dedicated time and effort ensuring that the University of Illinois remains one of the premier research institutions in the world.

I have known Rick for every one of those 22 years through my time as a State Representative in Illinois and as a Member of Congress, where I have been honored to be able to represent the University of Illinois' campus at Urbana-Champaign. His work ethic, dedication, and professionalism have been a reflection of his overall character and he will be sorely missed, not only on campus, but in my office as well.

Rick, I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you these past 22 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MARVIN WESTBERG

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, last Friday, at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Colorado, Captain Marvin Westberg was laid to his rest with full honors. He passed away February 18 at the age of 87.

Captain Westberg attended what is now the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley. He then joined the United States Navy, spending 22 years on active duty. He served in both WWII and the Korea War. After retiring from the United States Navy in 1964, he started a second long career with United Airlines.

I have spoken to Marv on several occasions. Among the best stories he told was about one instance when he was training a young pilot to fly. Marv fired up his trademark pipe in the cockpit and gave the trainee a command, to which the trainee replied, "Can't see sir, too much smoke, sir!" Marv never forgot that the trainee was the elder George Bush. Marv also witnessed the surrender of Japan from his ship, anchored next to the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo harbor, on September 2, 1945.

Madam Speaker, our nation and our liberties are built from the service of men and women like Captain Marvin Westberg. He contributed his talents and abilities to our national defense, to our nation's economy, to our political system, and to the life of his friends and neighbors. I just wanted to take a small moment to recognize his service, and his career.

#### COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

### HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Journalism Award winner is Alice Steinbacher of Bernardsville, where she is an accomplished writer.

Alice began her career in marketing, radio, advertising, public relations and publishing in 1970 as marketing assistant at John Blair and Co. in New York City.

In 1979, she opened her own agency, Steinbacher Advertising.

She published Renaissance Morristown. Alice edits and publishes Chapter II for the seniors of the Somerset Hills.

I am pleased to congratulate Alice Steinbacher for her outstanding efforts and

share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

**YIMBY AWARD TO STEVEN  
GARTRELL**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, March 8th, I had the privilege of addressing one of the most worthwhile organizations in the district that I am privileged to represent—CAN-DO. Led by Josephine McNeil, CAN-DO does extraordinarily important work in trying to get affordable housing of various sorts—rental, ownership, group homes—placed in the City of Newton, where I live. This requires a great deal of work, both in compiling together the finances at a time when money was not adequate for these purposes, and in dealing with neighborhood resistance which generally turns out to have been unjustified, but which was nonetheless strong in some cases.

In addition to being able at that event to praise the work of Josephine McNeil, I had the chance to share the evening's speaking program with Steven Gartrell, who is just retiring as Director of the Housing and Community Development program in the City of Newton. He won the YIMBY Award from the organization: the "Yes, In My Back Yard!" honor. As the Community Development Director for the City of Newton for many years, Steve Gartrell exemplified public service that was compassionate and responsible. Under his leadership, serving several mayors, the city spent its community development block grant money wisely and well. Steve Gartrell did the most good that it was possible to do with the funds made available to him from the federal government. I am glad to be able to point to the expenditure of community development funds under Mr. Gartrell as an example of how government at the federal level can best enable good work at the local level, and I congratulate Steve Gartrell for this well-deserved award, and Josephine McNeil for recognizing him by granting it.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 5, 2009, I was not present for a recorded vote. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Roll No. 106—yea.

**EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS**

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, El Salvador is a good friend of the United States.

And after we suffered the attacks of 9/11, most Salvadorans kept us in their prayers. But one group felt differently.

The FMLN, a pro terrorist, Left wing party in El Salvador, issued a communiqué that the U.S., because of its policies, was itself to blame for being attacked. The U.S. embassy publicly denounced that declaration, yet the FMLN is now poised to possibly enter into the government in El Salvador.

Four days after 9/11, the FMLN had a march in their capital city to celebrate the 9/11 attack by Al-Qaeda and to burn the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who today is the FMLN's candidate for El Salvadoran Vice President.

El Salvador's election is on Sunday. If an ally of Al-Qaeda and Iran comes to power in El Salvador, the national security interests of the United States will require certain immigration restrictions and controls over the flow of the \$4 billion in annual remittances sent from the U.S. back home to El Salvador.

Let me note, that my purpose is not to punish Salvadorans, but if a pro-terrorism government takes power, it will be imperative to review our policies in order to protect the national security of the United States.

**STATEMENT ON UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FMLN, TEMPORARY PROTECTED IMMIGRATION STATUS, MONEY TRANSFERS AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY**

**NEW WORLD REALITY OF TERRORISM**

The global offensive waged by terror groups against the United States and the free world obliges our nation to make strong decisions to help assure our own security.

**REMITTANCES AN ISSUE OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY**

The U.S. government, in permitting or prohibiting unregulated remittances from the United States to a foreign country, must concern itself above all with the national security of the United States.

Policy decisions regarding monetary remittances to foreign countries must now be evaluated with special attention paid to the degree of confidence and effective cooperation that exists with the counterpart government.

It has been determined through a number of official investigations that some of the same groups that direct terror campaigns against us and our allies may help finance those campaigns with money acquired in the United States and then transferred out of the country.

**REMITTANCES DESTINED FOR TERRORIST GROUPS MUST BE BLOCKED AND SEIZED**

To fight this threat, tougher laws have been enacted and effective law enforcement efforts have been able to block and seize funds originating in the United States that were destined for foreign terrorist groups. Toward that end, international and bi-lateral cooperation is of the utmost importance.

Ample legal precedent exists to shut down U.S.-based organizations that send money or material support, directly or indirectly, to terrorist entities, and to seize their assets. The FBI and Department of the Treasury have done so on several occasions since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

**COUNTRY POLICY ON REMITTANCES AND PRO-TERRORIST REGIMES**

The country policy regarding the unregulated flow of remittances should be urgently reviewed and, in most cases, those remittances must be immediately terminated, if a pro-terrorism party wins power or enters the government of a country.

**THE FMLN AS A PRO-TERRORIST PARTY**

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), a political party in El Salvador, can be considered a pro-terrorist party because of its support for designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC, for state sponsors of terror, such as Cuba and Iran, and for the public participation by some of its leaders, including its current candidate for Vice President, in a pro-Al Qaeda rally where the U.S. flag was burned, this taking place immediately after September 11, 2001. The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador was forced to condemn the written public statements related to the September 11th attacks that were issued by the FMLN and blamed the U.S. for causing itself to be attacked because of its international policies.

**THE ORIGIN OF THE FMLN**

The FMLN was created in 1980, with the direct help of Fidel Castro, as an armed subversive communist organization that sought the violent overthrow of the Government of El Salvador in order to replace it with a pro-Castro Marxist-Leninist regime. After years of armed aggression and terrorism, which included the murder of four U.S. Marines in El Salvador as well as other U.S. citizens, the FMLN signed a peace agreement in 1992 that brought the war to an end and led to the participation of the FMLN in the political process.

**CURRENT ACTIONS OF THE FMLN**

The FMLN continues to participate actively in international gatherings with violent and radical anti-U.S. groups and terrorist organizations. The FMLN contains clandestine armed groups that have been linked to violent actions in El Salvador, including the murder of a policeman and an attack on a presidential convoy.

The FMLN maintains direct ties with terrorist organizations. This relationship was confirmed by electronic records left by the Colombian narco-guerrilla terrorist group the FARC on a laptop computer used by one of the group's leaders. The emails found show that a key figure of El Salvador's FMLN, Jose Luis Merino (alias "Ramiro"), assisted the FARC in contacting international arms dealers for the purpose of obtaining weapons.

Purges in the FMLN have left the party under the complete control of its most hard-line communist leaders. The FMLN is also known to organize in the United States among the Salvadoran immigrant community.

**EXCELLENT CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND EL SALVADOR**

It must be emphasized that the United States has very good relations with the current government of El Salvador, led by the party ARENA. This friendship is based on confidence, shared values, mutually beneficial international policies and strong personal relationships.

Excellent bi-lateral relations permit a high-level of cooperation on important national security matters. El Salvador provides military and intelligence cooperation and was one of the longest-serving members of coalition that sent armed forces to post-war Iraq. El Salvador is also a valued ally in the war on drugs, providing the United States with an important Forward Operating Location in Central America.

**TPS BASED ON EXCELLENT STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP**

In the context of excellent relations and close cooperation, the U.S. government was able to grant and extend TPS for the benefit of nearly 300,000 Salvadorans now living and working in the United States. For similar