

to these essential life tasks, service animals offer priceless companionship and unconditional love.

Madam Speaker, we are at a point in our history where the demand for our troops is high and the nature of their work puts them in grave danger on a daily basis. We must not overlook the great sacrifices that our soldiers make each and every day in the name of freedom. It is unacceptable that fewer than 75 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have service dogs because they cannot afford them or are unaware of their benefits. Currently, such brave men and women have to wait up to two years to receive an assistance animal. Our soldiers deserve nothing less than our steadfast support and access to services that improve their quality of life.

The Tower of Hope has been dedicated to substantially improving the lives of veterans. Through tireless and devoted work, the Tower of Hope has raised funds for training assistance dogs and labored to educate people about the benefits of such animals. Most of all, the Tower of Hope has been able to award grants to veterans, allowing them to enjoy these dogs' services at no cost. This resolution lauds the outstanding work of the Tower of Hope and expresses gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who have made these programs possible through their generosity. Additionally, this resolution supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Madam Speaker, throughout the years, this great nation has been shaped by our willingness to help our neighbors in their greatest time of need. This giving spirit that defines our country is embodied in the Tower of Hope. We owe it to our veterans and the history of this country to support the development of a program that inspires hope and strengthens our tradition of compassion to those who need it most.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterans by supporting this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING EFFICIENCY ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in 2007, Congressman UPTON and I introduced legislation—which became law as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act—that will revolutionize the way Americans light their homes.

Our legislation bans the famously inefficient 100-watt incandescent light bulb by 2012, phases out remaining inefficient light bulbs by 2014, and requires that light bulbs be at least three times as efficient as today's 100-watt incandescent bulb by 2020.

That bill was the product of bipartisan and bicameral efforts to forge a consensus between industry and environmental groups. The result was not only broadly accepted, it was groundbreaking. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates that the provisions will eventually save \$18 billion in energy costs every year, and prevent the emission of 100 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. That's the equivalent of taking 20 million cars off the road.

Today, we will introduce legislation that builds on this success by setting efficiency standards for outdoor lighting.

Outdoor lighting currently consumes approximately 4.4% of all the electricity produced in the United States. Most of this lighting is currently provided by outdated and inefficient technologies.

Our bill sets efficiency standards to phase out these inefficient technologies (which include incandescent and halogen lights), paving the way for more efficient and cost-effective lights (such as super-efficient light emitting diodes, or LEDs). The first standard will be set in 2011, the second in 2013, and the last in 2015. The Department of Energy would then have the authority to set rules that raise efficiency standards even further.

The bill also requires outdoor lights to come with bi-level controls, which permit users to alter the amount of light emitted. You don't need the same level of brightness at dusk as you do in the middle of the night. This is important, because these controls will give cities, counties, and other users more control over their own energy usage, empowering them to maximize their own energy conservation efforts.

Finally, like in 2007, we protect the efforts of early innovators such as California, which has already passed an outdoor lighting standard. Our bill allows California to fully implement its law before imposing nationwide preemption.

The energy savings that will flow from these efficiency improvements are stunning. A leading industry group estimates that this bill could eventually reduce energy usage from outdoor lighting by more than 25%, saving more than \$6 billion in electricity costs every year. That's the equivalent of more than 50 coal fired power stations.

And like our 2007 legislation, we are proud that this bill is a bipartisan, consensus effort forged after extensive discussions between leading environmental and industry groups.

The United States will not be able to get its arms around the twin, daunting challenges of global climate change and dependence on oil until we pursue efficiency and energy conservation wherever it is technologically feasible.

We believe that this bill, like its 2007 counterpart, is a vital and necessary piece of the solution. We urge its swift passage.

HONORING DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and lives of two remarkable colleagues from the South Florida Delegation, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. With unprecedented courage, a love of family and a strong commitment to service, these women have made history in our community, our state and our nation. Today I take the time to honor their work and thank them.

I had the pleasure of serving with DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in the Florida State Leg-

islature, where she made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida House at the age of 26, and later the Florida Senate. I was proud when she joined me in Congress in 2005 as the first Jewish Congresswoman ever elected from Florida. DEBBIE works tirelessly for the people of South Florida and has dedicated her life to public service. In just four short years, she has made herself known on Capitol Hill as a leader on the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary and as a Chief Deputy Whip for her party.

DEBBIE takes special interest in ensuring that Americans and people around the world are treated fairly and with respect. She is a leader in the Jewish Community, an advocate of human rights and has introduced and passed key legislation protecting Florida's working families, women and children. Despite many legislative victories throughout the year, DEBBIE's greatest accomplishment is her family. Aside from prioritizing the needs of her constituents, she also makes life at home a priority as a loving wife to Steve Schultz, her husband of 17 years, and an exceptional mother of twins Jake and Rebecca and youngest daughter Shelby.

We recently learned that DEBBIE successfully battled breast cancer after finding a lump during a routine self-examination last year. In an effort to create awareness of breast cancer among young woman she has shared her story and introduced the EARLY Act, legislation that develops and implements a national education campaign to increase awareness of the threats posed by breast cancer in young women of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. DEBBIE's story is an inspiration to women across the nation and she represents what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication and perseverance. She is undoubtedly one of the most influential Members of Congress and I know that a bright future lies ahead.

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN has been a public servant for more than two decades and this year marks her 20th in the United States Congress. In 1989, she was the first Hispanic woman and first Cuban-American elected to the House of Representatives. She began her career as an educator in Miami, FL and was elected to the Florida State Legislature in 1982, becoming the first Hispanic woman in the Florida House. She later served in the Florida Senate.

ILEANA's list of accomplishments runs long, but she is best known for ensuring that the needs of the diverse community she represents are met. She takes a particular interest in education, safety for Florida's families and protecting our environment. In her role as the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs she has worked to advance democracy around the world, promote human rights and improve our nation's relationships abroad. She continues to be a strong voice for the oppressed people of Cuba and an advocate for peace in the Middle East. In 2008 ILEANA's work was recognized by the State of Florida when she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, a great honor in our state.

Alongside a successful 25 year career in public service, has been Ileana's dedication to her family. She is a loving wife to husband Dexter Lehtinen, mother of Amanda Michelle and Patricia Marie and stepmother of Katharine and Douglas. By her side each day are

her parents, Enrique and Amanda Ros, who left Castro's communist regime in search of freedom, when Ileana was just seven years old, so that their daughter could take advantage of the opportunities this country has to offer.

Although DEBBIE and ILEANA come from different backgrounds and different political parties, they share a common goal and that is to improve the lives of South Floridians. They seize all opportunities to work together with the rest of the South Florida Delegation for the best interest of the diverse community which we represent. They truly are an inspiration to woman of all ages.

It is an honor and a privilege to call these outstanding women my friends and serve with them in Congress. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating our colleagues Congresswomen DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their invaluable contributions to our nation and their remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE ENGINEER
WILLIAM "BILLY" D. PINE

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fire engineer William "Billy" D. Pine, an American hero who touched the lives of many. Born on July 3, 1979 in Yuma, Colorado, Mr. Pine lived a brave and courageous life putting out fires in his community.

Known as the lovable firehouse prankster with an infectious smile and contagious laugh, Mr. Pine was both admired and respected by his fellow firefighters. After joining the Pueblo Fire Department in 2004, he quickly became active in the Union and planned firehouse activities. Mr. Pine was a "firefighter's firefighter" and his coworkers quickly became his second family.

Mr. Pine was committed to both his work and his family. He met his wife, Janice, shortly after moving to Pueblo in 2003. The two were set up on a lunch date by a mutual friend and immediately became inseparable. They married in July 2005 and, the following April, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Sydney Taylor. Mr. Pine loved being a father and was dedicated to providing a good life for his family.

However, on October 4, 2006, when Sydney was only 6 months old and he only 27, the unexpected happened. When Mr. Pine rolled over in bed to help his wife with her homework, a tumor burst, causing his intestine to erupt. After being rushed to the hospital, Mr. Pine was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and immediately began chemotherapy. While his family and friends struggled with the shocking news, Mr. Pine stayed strong.

Throughout chemotherapy, Mr. Pine remained dedicated to the fire department. On good days, he would go in to work. On bad days, his coworkers would cover his shifts and send him the paycheck. In April 2008, Mr. Pine was able to return to work full-time and fought in one last fire. When a deadly brushfire swept through Olney Springs on April 15, Mr. Pine responded to the call. When he

got there, two of his fellow firefighters were stuck behind a downed power line. Although, as a trained fire engineer, Mr. Pine was required to stay at the controls of his pumper truck, he went into the blaze and saved the two men. He was their hero.

Mr. Pine showed amazing strength and courage until the very end. Tragically, he lost his battle with cancer on August 19, 2008 at age 29. I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Pine and am proud to announce that his name will be added to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs on September 19, 2009. Mr. Pine was a kind, loyal and genuine man who inspired those around him. May he be remembered along with the other heroes in Colorado who have given their lives protecting this country.

IN HONOR OF FRANKLIN CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR OUT-
STANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the faculty and students of Franklin Central High School for their dedication as dynamic and sharing members of their community. Earlier this month, FCHS students raised over \$24,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. The students raised the money at their inaugural dance marathon.

This program was a six hour event with 325 students participating. In addition to the dancing, the dance marathon included a dodge ball tournament and a girl's basketball free throw contest that raised \$6,000. The faculty and staff set an excellent example by raising an additional \$3,500 to contribute to their students' efforts. All in all, the inaugural dance marathon was an extremely successful program that surpassed its intended goal of \$15,000.

The Riley dance program was originally established in 1991 in memory of Ryan White, an AIDS activist and Riley patient. Since the program's inception, thousands of Indiana's high school and college students have committed themselves to raising funds for Riley. It is a program that Riley has come to depend on to facilitate research and provide treatment to children in need of vital health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Franklin Central High School for their dedicated public service.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 90th birthday of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On March 31, 2009, Mr. Curls will be 90 years young. This weekend on March 26th and 27th,

he is to be honored in Kansas City, Missouri by family, friends, and acquaintances. I am privileged to be a part of this ceremony.

Mr. Curls is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been very influential in delivering votes for a candidate or a cause. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For nearly fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of color. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc. was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

The "kids" have also held many public offices. Two of them were and one is presently a Missouri State Representative, one was a city councilwoman, and two have been School Board members in the Metropolitan Kansas City area.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the "Class of 1937," which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its "Legacy Award-ees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He also has been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles into practice, and the effects of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He has had broad shoulders all his life and has held us on those shoulders all these years to promote equality in all walks of life.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 90th Birthday celebration. Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri. Whatever