

Fiscal Year 2010 budget submission to see whether this effort will receive the kind of funding it needs to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

HEALTH INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this legislation does one simple thing, Mr. Speaker—it requires health insurance companies to be upfront and honest with their policy holders when they place limitations and restrictions on benefits prior to selling them an insurance policy.

Currently, the way insurance regulations are set, many Americans are unaware that their health insurance may not cover injuries resulting from certain recreational activities because their policy is unclear or very broad.

This lack of clarity has created a confusing situation for individuals that may ride motorcycles, horses, snowmobiles, or participate in other recreational activities.

While millions of Americans enjoy these activities safely every year, when an individual is injured, they often find that their insurance will not cover their medical expenses.

H.R. 1253 would require that any limitations and restrictions on insurance benefits be explicit and clear. Insurance companies would be required to make available to participants and beneficiaries in an easily understandable manner a description of the limitations and restrictions included in the policy.

By passing this straightforward legislation, we will protect our constituents that ride motorcycles, horses, snowmobiles, or participate in other recreational activities from being caught by surprise when they thought that their policy covered any possible injuries from their accident.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

I want to thank Congressman BURGESS for his work on this legislation as well as Chairman WAXMAN, DINGELL and BARTON.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to this resolution. I do so not because I oppose our recognizing peace as preferable to, and more productive than, war. On the contrary, too seldom do we celebrate and encourage the end of violence and warfare on this Floor so I welcome any such endorsement of peace in international relations. However, I cannot agree with the final "resolved" clause of this resolution, which states that:

... the House of Representatives calls for recognition of the peace treaty between

Egypt and Israel as a model mechanism upon which partner nations may build to overcome longstanding barriers to peace and effective mutual cooperation.

What the resolution fails to mention, and the reason we should not endorse the treaty as a model, is that at the time the peace was being negotiated at Camp David the United States committed itself to an enormous financial aid package to both Egypt and Israel in exchange for their accession to the treaty. Over the past thirty years, the United States taxpayer has transferred to—some might say "bribed"—Israel and Egypt more well over \$100 billion as a payoff for their leaders' signature on the treaty. Particularly in this time of economic hardship, where so many Americans are out of work and facing great financial challenges, I hardly believe we should be celebrating that which increases the strain on taxpayers. I believe we should cease all foreign aid to all countries, as it is a counterproductive and unconstitutional transfer of wealth from U.S. taxpayers to governments overseas.

I do believe we should, where possible and without meddling, encourage nations and regions at war or in conflict to work toward peace. But I also believe we should lead by example: that we should demonstrate by our actions the benefits of friendly relations and trade with all nations which seek the same. I strongly oppose the idea that we should bribe the rest of the world to do what we demand. Therefore, while I celebrate the achievement of peace between Egypt and Israel, I do not believe this "model" to be productive or in the best interests of the United States. I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution.

HONORING PAUL HARVEY

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a man whose iconic voice forever changed broadcast radio and to whom our Nation will be forever indebted.

As a high school student, Paul Harvey began his storied career in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Spending time to help clean the studios of KVOO, Paul was eventually given the opportunity to fill-in on the air. It quickly became clear that Paul Harvey was a gifted broadcaster as he was soon promoted to become the station's program director.

After spending time covering World War II and serving in the United States Army Air Corps, Paul Harvey moved to Chicago where he began broadcasting for ABC. He quickly became a fixture on Chicago's airwaves and on April 1, 1951, 'Paul Harvey News and Comment' debuted. Eventually gathering an audience that spanned 1,200 stations and well over 25 million people, Paul Harvey was often the "largest one-man network in the world."

Madam Speaker, the list of awards and honors to the credit of Paul Harvey is long and distinguished. His election to the National Association of Broadcasters Radio Hall of Fame reflects a career that spanned more than 70 years. In October 2005, Paul Harvey was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's most prestigious civilian decoration.

Illustrating the extent to which Paul Harvey captured the American voice, his broadcasts and newspaper columns have been reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD more than those of any other commentator.

Because of my time in radio, I am especially thankful for the life and character of Paul Harvey. There is no doubt that every broadcaster has taken inspiration from the unique style and unparalleled legacy of Paul Harvey. Epitomizing the values and ideals of everyday Americans, Paul Harvey was a master of his craft and a pioneer in the format of broadcast radio that many Americans continue to rely on.

Paul Harvey, Good Day.

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to vote "yes" on the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This bill will designate more than 2 million acres of wilderness in nine states, including 127,000 acres on Mt. Hood and in the Columbia River Gorge. It also includes wilderness protection for other Oregon treasures in the Cascade Siskiyou, Oregon Badlands, Spring Basin, and Copper Salmon areas.

It is worth noting that in addition to wilderness on Mt. Hood, the legislation contains nearly 80 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, including stretches of Fish Creek, which contains crucial habitat for endangered fish, the East Fork of the Hood River, where wildlife habitat and low impact recreation opportunities abound, and Fifteen Mile Creek, another critical area for fish and wildlife, recreation, and scenic beauty. The bill designates 34,000 acres of new National Recreation Areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest and creates a long term transportation plan to address the challenges of getting to and from the mountain. It also directs the Forest Service to participate in three land conveyances. These exchanges will provide additional protection for the North side of Mt. Hood, the Pacific Crest Trail, and a parcel of land that is critical to the community in Clackamas County.

In 2003, I worked with other members of the Oregon delegation to hold a Mt. Hood Summit at Timberline Lodge, inviting local stakeholders to share their vision for the challenges and opportunities facing the Mt. Hood National Forest. Over the past six years a committed group of citizens, organizations, Native Americans, local, state and federal jurisdictions, and private interests have spent countless hours negotiating a long term stewardship and protection plan for Mt. Hood's forests and rivers.

Oregonians have worked tirelessly and waited years to have these treasured natural areas protected. I am extremely pleased that the hard work of so many committed local stakeholders is coming to fruition, and I hope that we pass this bill today and send it swiftly to President Obama for his signature.

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the glorious contributions of Greek civilization to the world, and to congratulate the people of Greece on the 188th anniversary of their independence.

I can speak no more simply than Edith Hamilton who wrote in her classic 1930 study of Greek civilization that “the Greeks came into being and the world, as we know it, began.”

I stand here as the Member of an institution whose very existence is owed to the Greek imagination and beneath a dome supported by columns of Greek inspiration. The principles of democratic governance, the ones which our Founders drew upon heavily to establish this republic, were first expounded upon in ancient Greece, and it is to that first age of reason that all democratic civilizations owe a debt of gratitude.

But it was not only the political philosophy of Greek civilization that left its mark on the world. One cannot walk the streets of this city without noticing its obvious tribute to the architecture of our democratic forebears. Stone columns line our most important buildings and stand guard our most cherished documents.

In addition to the philosophical and physical structures we honor in our own time from Greece, we also pay tribute on this day to its legacy in the arts and sports. The epic of Homer, the poetry of Pericles, Pindar and Aeschylus, the comedy of Aristophanes, the history of Herodotus, the Olympics and the marathon—any simple recitation will be incomplete and not wholly do justice to the accomplishments of centuries. But, let it be said that time has shown the greatness of their time to be the greatness of all time.

Our more recent histories our bound together as well. Just as our independence was a tribute to the ideas of ancient Greece, so too was Greek independence inspired by the American Revolution. Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, founder of the modern Greek state said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that “it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”

Since that kind and graceful message so long ago, the relationship between the United States and Greece—allies in times of both peace and conflict—grows stronger. Generations of Greek-Americans have maintained their traditions here, just as other civilizations for centuries have passed on the guiding lights of Ancient Greece. I am proud to join the Greek-Americans of New York’s Second District in celebrating the 188th anniversary of their independence day.

82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, work, and 82nd anniversary of the day Cesar Chavez was born.

He was born on March 31, 1927 near Yuma, Arizona. Chavez was a civil rights, Latino, farm worker, and labor leader. To some he was also a religious and spiritual figure; and to all, he was a community servant and a crusader for nonviolent social change. He also spent his time as an environmentalist and consumer advocate. But above all, he was a person who had the strength and courage to fight for what he knew was right and to try and rid the world of injustice.

After spending most of his childhood as a migrant farm worker with his parents, Chavez joined the U.S. Navy in 1946 and served in the Western Pacific just after WWII.

For more than three decades Chavez led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions, as well as countless other rights and protections for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. Against previously insurmountable odds, he led successful strikes and boycotts that resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture. His union’s efforts brought about the passage of the groundbreaking 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act to protect farm workers. Today, it remains the only law in the nation that protects the farm workers’ right to unionize. We must continue to protect farm and agricultural workers who are a dedicated labor force and a vital contributor to our economy.

As I reflect on his life and work, I am privileged to be a fellow Veteran of the U.S. Armed Services and a fellow Mexican American. It was my honor to serve the country that we both felt strongly enough to continue to fight for its betterment. Chavez not only fought for Latinos, but he fought for the dignity of this nation, and for that we are forever grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 163 through 165. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on each.

HONORING AAUW OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American

Association of University Women of Napa County on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of their founding. AAUW–Napa County has done visionary work to serve the community as well as fulfill their charter of advancing justice and equality for women.

Over 80 years ago, inaugural President Stella Linscott and a band of determined Napaans started the AAUW Napa County branch with the goal of promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. This organization that began as a response to sexism and discrimination in our society has become a pillar of our community.

Their endless contributions to the Napa Valley over the years include annual scholarships for local women, voter education forums, the Adopt-A-Road program and contributions to AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Foundations. The Napa County Branch of AAUW is an important component of a statewide organization that has played a crucial role in finally achieving gender equity in college enrollment in California.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank AAUW–Napa County for the remarkable work they have done for everyone in our County. It is through the hard work and generous contributions of many members of our community that this branch has thrived for the past 80 years, and I know that we will continue to see progress for many years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. H.R. 1105 The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP
Account: Army Corp of Engineers—Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corp of Engineers—Nashville District

Address: 110 9th Avenue South Nashville, Tennessee 37203–3863

Description of Request: Funding in the amount of \$42 million is required for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to replace the Chickamauga Lock. The lock is a major economic engine in the Tennessee Valley region. Commodities passing through the lock have origins and destinations in 17 states in the South, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, traveling an average 1,400 miles. Over the last several years, 2.5 million tons passed through the lock annually, and the forecasted traffic demand is expected to grow considerably. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers indicates that replacement of the existing lock is far more economical than continuing costly maintenance and repair.

Distribution of funding:
Construction: 100%