

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your April 17, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 1145. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important public safety legislation.

The Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program is one of the most successful law enforcement support programs ever initiated by the federal government. As the National Association of Police Organizations noted in their April 21 letter to me on this bill, "With the support of the COPS Program, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years." It's also clear that our communities are desperate to see this program properly funded, after eight years of neglect.

NAPO noted in their letter to me that in the last month, the COPS Program office received over 7,200 applications for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant funding contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the "stimulus bill." Those 7,200 applications amounted to a request for funds to hire 40,000 more officers nationwide. Yet the \$1 billion CHRP contained in the stimulus bill would allow local communities to hire only 5,000 to 6,000 new police. For New Jersey, previous COPS funding has meant an additional 628 police officers and/or sheriff deputies were walking the beat in the local commu-

nities of my Congressional district. Further, 33 school resource officers were hired to ensure that our children's schools are safe. H.R. 1139 would raise the CHRP authorization level to \$1.25 billion, allowing state and local law enforcement to hire more officers. Based on historical funding data, this bill would allow New Jersey alone to hire more than 2,000 additional police, and those would be welcome reinforcements for our current law enforcement officers who are working to improve the quality of life in communities across New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good and much needed bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

ALTERING LAID OFF EMPLOYEES IN REASONABLE TIME ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Alert Laid off Employees in Reasonable Time (ALERT) Act, legislation to amend the definition of "mass layoff" in the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and to increase penalties for the violation of this act.

With unemployment levels on the rise, widespread layoffs have ravaged our nation's workforce. All too frequently, employees are provided with no more than a month's notice to prepare for unemployment, and often less than that. This is a critical time that employees need to prepare for unemployment and to make informed financial decisions.

Current federal law does not do enough to protect these workers. Under the federal WARN Act, employers are only required to provide 60-days notice if the mass layoff impacts at least 500 employees or 33 percent of a workforce when that percentage represents at least 50 employees at one employment site. More and more, companies are conducting widespread layoffs which, nationwide, can impact hundreds and even thousands of employees but these massive layoffs often fail to trigger the WARN Act at each employment site. As such, far too many employees are denied the protections they are entitled to.

To address this issue, I am proud to have introduced the ALERT Act. This legislation amends the definition of a "mass layoff" to include layoffs by one employer at more than one worksite. In addition, this bill would increase the penalty for violating the WARN Act to two times back pay and benefits.

Madam Speaker, in these challenging economic times it is our responsibility to do all we can to protect the workers. We must always remember that they are a key component to the growth of our economy and we must always ensure that they are protected, especially in this time of uncertainty. I am joined in support of this bill by the United Electrical Workers Union (UE) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREMONT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC) located in Fremont, California. FRC opened its doors in June of 1999 and is currently celebrating ten years of service to the community.

The Fremont Family Resource Center is a collaborative effort of 27 California State, County, City and non-profit service agencies, all working together to serve families in the Tri-City area of southern Alameda County. Together, these agencies made the FRC a "one-stop shop," where families can access a vast array of support services and programs. Their many services include adult and youth employment, child care information, referrals, subsidies and counseling and case management, housing information, parent support, immigration services, family economic success programs, services for the disabled, nutrition services for mothers and children, domestic violence prevention services, and health insurance counseling.

Tri City families make over 100,000 requests annually to FRC for services. The organization has become a model of service that has gained national and international interest and attention.

On the evening of May 2, 2009, FRC will celebrate its 10th anniversary and honor the individuals who have contributed to its success. As Fremont's Human Services Director, Suzanne Shenfil's "out of the box" thinking and leadership has led efforts to mobilize needed social services for vulnerable individuals in the Tri-City community. She has worked tirelessly to bring government and community organizations together to creatively eliminate barriers and build systems to serve those in need. Ms. Shenfil is the impetus behind the creation of the Fremont Family Resource Center.

In addition to the acknowledgment of Suzanne Shenfil, special recognition is also given to other members of the Fremont Family Resource team for their commitment and dedication to insure the success of the FRC. This team includes Letha Barnett, Schuman-Liles Clinic; Ledyia Ceden, State Department of Rehabilitation; Rodney Clark, Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments; Tony Limperopulos, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services; Shirley McPherson, Child Care Links; and Allen Jackson, Tri-City One Stop Career Center, and the Employment Development Department.

I join the Tri-City community in expressing appreciation to Human Services Director Suzanne Shenfil, the Family Resource Team, and staff and partner organizations for their vision and leadership over the past ten years of exemplary service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
EVANS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of David Evans of Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Evans passed away in his home on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. His legacy will continue to flourish in those he left behind: his wife of twenty-five years, Rosie, five children, twenty-three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Evans was a community leader in Joliet for decades. He devoted over thirty years to public office, including service on the Will County Board and the Joliet School District 86 Board. His record illustrates a sincere dedication to education and advocacy for children's issues in the community. Mr. Evans was also instrumental in promoting positive change in the community—and stated that one of his proudest moments was the naming of an elementary school in Joliet after African-American actress and Joliet native Lynne Thigpen.

In addition to his involvement in local government, Mr. Evans was also active in numerous community organizations. He founded Joliet Must Vote, co-founded Black Pride Inc., was the vice president of the Unity Community Development Corp., and served as chairman of the Will County Head Start Program. In 2004, he coordinated a Get-Out-the-Vote operation for then-Senator Barack Obama.

The sudden passing of Dave Evans has truly shaken the community. His passion for the Joliet community will live on in the many lives he touched. He is not only recognized for his community activism, but for his life as a husband, father, mentor, advocate, and friend. It is with great pride that I honor the life of Mr. David Evans.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article written by Donald Conkey, a constituent of the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, regarding the National Day of Prayer. Mr. Conkey's article reads:

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Donald S. Conkey

This column on next week's Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday and the National Day of Prayer on Thursday was inspired by an e-mail, from Sally Field, that reminded me of just how much America's Founding Father's depended upon prayer to their "Creator, the Supreme Judge of the world" to support their efforts in creating a nation where liberty could be restored after nearly three thousand years of despotic and tyrannical rule that had enslaved mankind worldwide—and become a beacon of liberty to the world.

The Founders belief in, and their use of prayer, as clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence, plus all their writings, should be a powerful example for those

Americans who fear the nation's current economic challenges and the massive directional changes being made by our nations new administration.

America's National Day of Prayer has a long history. A resolution by the first Continental Congress in 1775 indicated it was "a time for prayer in forming a new nation." President John Adams declared May 9, 1798 "a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer," asking citizens of all faiths to pray "that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it." In 1952 President Truman signed a national day of prayer proclamation and in 1988 President Reagan established the first Thursday of May as America's annual National Day of Prayer.

It is gratifying to know that I am not alone in believing in the power of prayer, or that God listens to and answers prayer (personal revelation), or that He answered the Founders prayers (collective revelation), not once but many times when they pleaded with Him, their Supreme Judge of the World, to establish and restore freedom to a world then enslaved by despots and tyrants. And to be able to join with other believers, of many faiths and cultures, in pleading with the Lord in prayer for "the protection of divine Providence" in a National Day of Prayer next week reinforces my beliefs and hopes that we whom He has entrusted to protect those everlasting principles of liberty given us by the Founders is reassuring.

The timing of next weeks prayer days may be providential: they are coming during the first 100 days of the new administrations efforts to bring about massive change of direction to the country, both internally and externally, and they follow last week's inspiring "call to arms" for Americans of every faith, culture, race and nationality to rally to the defense of their liberties in the form of "Tea Party" protestors. Their "Tea Bag" could well become America's new symbolic "Liberty Bell." These "Tea Party" protestors represent that third of the nation who still believe America is great and that God inspired and raised up the Founders to restore liberty to mankind with a new nation, a nation "choice above all other nations." This third also understands America will not continue to be a powerful and free nation if it continues to allow that secular third, those who reject God and want to remove Him from all aspects of American culture and dominate American politics, as they are doing today.

This third also understands that it is they who must work to educate (our schools have failed to teach these principles) that middle third who know not what America stands for or that their future liberties and freedoms are directly connected to the restoration of those principles upon which America was founded, with God's help. And they also understand they are involved in an ideological war, a war of ideas and thoughts that if lost could cost them that way of life they cherish so greatly.

And they, as did the Founders 230 years ago, inspired by Paul's admonition to the Ephesians of old, must put on "the whole armour of God, that they may stand against the wiles of the devil," including their "breastplate of righteousness," and their "shield of faith wherewith they may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" as they battle the enemies of liberty and freedom that want to destroy this nation, and what it stands for, and make it a nation like unto all other nations, as in United Nations.

And lastly they fully understand they must unite with others of differing faiths with a unity of purpose, in defense of their liberties, as did the Founders who restored those freedoms, and put on their "helmet of

salvation, and the sword of the spirit . . . praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (freedom lovers) like them."

Next week, as we pray individually, as families, and in larger gatherings as with Fields Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast, we should, remembering the counsel of ages past, and "offer a prayer to preserve our nation's liberties" and "that our country may be protected from all the dangers that threaten it."

Be assured, all righteous prayers offered "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence" will be heard, especially from those willing to "mutually pledge" to stand with others and take a stand, and work to defend their liberties as did the Founding Fathers stand to create them—230 years ago.

RECOGNIZING THE DURBAN II
COUNTERCONFERENCE SPONSORED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS AND THE JEWISH WEEK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, last week we witnessed the deplorable spectacle of a United Nations conference purporting to address the troubling issue of racism, hijacked by nations with a deplorable record on human rights and turned into an all-out attack on Israel. I am proud that the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, The Jewish Week and other leading organizations in New York City organized a counter-conference that really discussed the continued problems of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, xenophobia, gender discrimination and religious intolerance.

I was pleased to have been asked to address the conference's opening day. Set forth below are my remarks:

"I want to thank Robert Weinberg, Marc Landis, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and Jewish Week for giving me the opportunity to address you this morning.

Eight years ago at Durban I, we witnessed a spectacle of anti-semitism the like of which has not been seen since World War II. There are many places you might expect to see anti-semitism—a ku klan rally, a pogrom, a neo-Nazi gathering. A UN-sponsored World Conference on Racism would not have immediately jumped to my mind—until the grotesque carnival of hatred we witnessed 8 years ago.

Of course, the UN had passed the illogical and hateful Zionism is Racism resolution in 1975—but they revoked that resolution in 1991 by a vote of 111 to 25, 10 years before the conference.

And yet, the warning signs were present.

At the pre-Conference it became clear that the full conference would be dominated by chants of 'Zionism equals racism,' accusations that Israel is an apartheid state and other outrageous slanders. Israel and the United States walked out—as they should have done.

The real irony is that anti-semitism, a form of racism, should be so prevalent at a conference that was supposed to combat racism.