

people in more than 400 cities, on all seven continents participated, darkening some of the world's most famous skylines and icons, including the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Coliseum in Rome, and the Sears Tower in Chicago. Even Google's home page went dark for that day.

This year, more than 1,700 cities in some 80 countries already have signed up to participate, with more joining each day. The event itself will begin in Fiji, cascading across the world with Hawaii as the final stop. In my district, three municipalities, Aurora, Naperville and Homer Glen, and numerous businesses have signed up to participate.

We need to start addressing climate change now, and Earth Hour is one of the many steps that we can take to do just that. That's why I introduced House Resolution 268, with my good friend from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, to support these goals and ideas of Earth Hour. The resolution will help increase education, awareness and action on this important environmental issue.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 268 and join in this inspiring and historical event.

I will submit an article entitled, "3,000 Vets Face HIV Risk After Unsterile Procedure," from the Associated Press, for the RECORD.

[From the Associated Press, Mar. 24, 2009]
3,000 VETS FACE HIV RISK AFTER UNSTERILE PROCEDURE

A Veterans Affairs hospital here has notified thousands of patients that their colonoscopies were performed with improperly sterilized equipment, officials said Monday.

The hospital urged about 3,260 patients who had colonoscopies between May 2004 and March 12 of this year to get tests for HIV, hepatitis and other diseases.

The VA insisted the risk of infection was minimal, saying the tubing that was improperly cleaned didn't make contact with patients.

It was the second recent announcement of errors during colonoscopies at VA facilities.

"The very notion that veterans have to contemplate this new reality now before them and visit special care clinics to undergo blood testing is stomach-turning," U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., said in a letter Monday to the VA's inspector general. "This information is shocking."

Meek urged a door-to-door campaign to alert veterans of the error.

"Although there is minimal risk, we feel that even a slight risk is unacceptable to the veterans we care for," said Susan Ward, a spokeswoman for the VA in Miami.

Last month, 6,378 patients at a clinic in Murfreesboro, Tenn., were told they may have been exposed to infectious body fluids during colonoscopies.

The VA said 1,800 veterans treated at an ear, nose and throat clinic in Augusta, Ga., were also alerted they could have been exposed to an infection due to improper disinfection of an instrument, though officials said the risk was "extremely small."

The VA hasn't said whether it expects more facilities to announce similar problems, though Meek cautioned the number of affected people "could quickly expand to include a much larger pool of people."

"That, somehow, these standard protocols were not followed will undoubtedly leave our

veterans with serious misgivings about our VA system," he said.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues from Maryland to honor Mrs. Christine Sarbanes, and the impact her passing will have on the citizens of our great State of Maryland and on our country.

Mrs. Sarbanes is the wife of Senator Paul Sarbanes and the mother of JOHN SARBANES, who is a Member of the House of Representatives. Christine was the quintessential lady, polished, well-educated and warmhearted.

Many times, as lawmakers, our spouses chose to sit on the sidelines, but Christine was very much involved in her husband's career. In fact, political activism brought Senator Sarbanes and Christine together at Oxford in England. A champion for women's rights, she was trying to get women accepted into his all-male debating society.

On the occasions when she would represent her husband at events, Christine was very knowledgeable on the issues. She was a hearty campaigner for her husband, but was even more tenacious when her son, JOHN, campaigned for this seat in the House of Representatives. She shared her love of politics and public service with her three children, and they each have taken her example to serve the greater community. She was the true matriarch of a great and distinguished political family.

In addition to finding time to raise three children and helping her husband's career, she managed a full-time job teaching Latin, Greek, and French at Goucher College and Gilman High School, all located in Baltimore, where she taught for more than 20 years.

In fact, one of my staffers, Walter Gonzalez, had the privilege of studying under her at Gilman. He described her as firm, but effective. She taught his 11th-grade speech class and advised him on his senior class speech. Laughing, he recalled yesterday how she coached him day after day. She would say, "Speed up, slow down, enunciate your words, too loud, emphasize the points." He said Christine was a passionate teacher who communicated her respect for her subjects with grace and humor.

A lifelong lover of libraries and art, Christine also found time to serve on several cultural boards and talked the Walters Art Gallery into eliminating their admission fees. She wanted all people, and especially children, to have the ability to experience culture. But she also wanted them to have basic survival needs. She did this through tireless work with the United Nations children's fund.

Christine enjoyed high regard from important people. But I will always remember how she treated everyday people who crossed her path with dignity and respect.

Maryland has lost a truly admired political presence. And on behalf of the residents of Maryland's Second District and the State of Maryland, I would like to express my sympathies to the Sarbanes family and thank them for sharing a talented and giving woman with our State and our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROGERS of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TARP FUNDS ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, recently released documents from AIG accounts for some of the more than \$180 billion in aid that AIG has received. And it's revealed that over \$58 billion of that \$180 billion has gone to foreign banks around the world. And \$58 billion have gone to French banks, German banks, French and German banks, respectively, pulled in \$19 billion and \$17 billion of American taxpayer money.

I understand the outrage over bonuses, \$166 million in bonuses, but that's a pittance compared to the \$58 billion that have gone to overseas banks. Societe Generale, based in France, was the top foreign recipient, at \$11.9 billion. Deutsche Bank of Germany received \$11.8 billion of taxpayer money. Barclays, based in England, got \$8.5 billion. BNB Paribas, based in France, got \$5 billion.

The House Oversight Committee also discovered a list of questionable foreign investments conducted by the largest recipients of TARP funds. Citigroup, JP Morgan and Bank of America each received \$25 billion in TARP funds on October 26th of last year. Citigroup then loaned Dubai \$8 billion of American taxpayer money. JP Morgan invested \$1 billion of American taxpayer money in India. And Bank of America gave communist China \$7 billion of the American people's money.

Now, the American people have the right to be outraged at the fact that they are being taxed so that a government-owned, failed company like AIG can give bonuses to the very same executives who brought about the ruin of their company. Mr. Speaker, \$166 million in bonuses is a lot of money. But it's a pittance, again, compared to that \$58 billion that AIG used to bail out the rest of the world.

So while hundreds of thousands of Americans get laid off each month, and

even people with good credit can't get homes, can't get home loans, can't get car loans, our tax dollars are hard at work making sure foreign countries get helped first.

Instead of giving billions of dollars worth of tax breaks and incentives to American companies who manufacture American products and hire American workers, our government has sided with foreign countries instead of being on the side of the American worker.

To compound the problem, the United States has record trade deficits with the rest of the world. So while our government punishes American companies who actually make things with high taxes, burdensome regulations, petty environmental restrictions and unfair trade laws, foreign countries are getting American tax dollars to invest in their business infrastructure so they can take away more American jobs during an American recession.

We allowed Bank of America to give \$7 billion in taxpayer money to China, \$7 billion in Americans' money to communist China, so they can build up their military and steal American jobs. That's criminal.

The AIG bonus scandal is a big deal. The Treasury losing track of where the bailout money is going is appalling. But it's too late to just ask where the money's going or to try to get back the taxpayer-subsidized bonuses, although those are good starts.

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What we need to do now is stop spending. Just stop. No more TARP. No more stimulus. No cap-and-trade energy tax on small businesses, and surely, no more bailing out foreign countries like China and India while we spend and tax and borrow our way into oblivion.

I respectfully ask the President of the United States to put the checkbook down.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Maryland's finest public servants, Christine Sarbanes—a woman of grace, passion and compassion.

She was a teacher, an activist and a volunteer who gave selflessly to her community, to Maryland, to the Nation, and to the greater world community. Her belief that every individual had the potential to be great fueled her passion for teaching, for spreading literacy worldwide and for providing access to higher learning for each and every student who had a desire to learn.

Christine Sarbanes was a dedicated mother, a full-time educator and both a political partner and adviser to her husband, Senator Paul Sarbanes.

For many of us, each job alone would constitute enough to leave a legacy, but for Christine, she chose to go above and beyond as a community servant, as an active board member for a number of community and international organizations, and as a tireless fundraiser for causes near to her heart.

I would like to extend the thoughts and prayers of my family and constituents to Senator Sarbanes, to my colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, and to the entire Sarbanes family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOODLATTE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak from this side of the aisle because it is where Paul Sarbanes would have stood.

When I came here almost 17 years ago, I would see Senator Sarbanes at social functions with this very attractive brunette on his arm, and I said to myself: Paul married well, didn't he? Then Christine came to my office as an advocate for schools and teachers, and I was wowed. When she left, I said to myself: Paul not only married well, he married up. Then, one day, my wife, when I came home, told me that at a spouse's event that day she had talked to Christine and that Christine told her that they had decided to retire because, as she told my wife—and Mr. Speaker, I am going to have a little trouble with this—they wanted to retire while they could still both climb steps.

I regret very much that Christine had far too few years to climb those steps with Paul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Marylander in honor of another Marylander, Christine Sarbanes, and in honor of her service and of her legacy to the State of Maryland and to the people of the

Fourth Congressional District, which I represent.

I did not know Christine Sarbanes in the way that you know a person. I knew her as a public person. I first met Christine Sarbanes at an elementary school at an event, and she didn't even know I was at the back of the school, but what I observed of Christine Sarbanes was her gentleness and tenacity and her love of education and her love of children.

I think, in some ways, you know a person sometimes by the people around them—by their children, by their spouses—and so we know Christine Sarbanes by her husband, our beloved Senator Paul Sarbanes, by her son and our colleague—JOHN SARBANES—and her other children. We see in them the gentleness and the smarts and the tenacity and the passion that was Christine Sarbanes. So it is with a heavy heart that we celebrate Christine Sarbanes' legacy.

I said to JOHN SARBANES yesterday, as he mentioned that it is difficult to know how much you miss a person until they are gone, that when one loses a parent—and I know about the loss of a parent—that the sadness of today becomes a joy of tomorrow when you remember a smile, when you remember something that happened when you were growing up, and it touches your heart in a different way.

So I wish for former Senator Paul Sarbanes, for JOHN SARBANES and for the entire Sarbanes family that there will be days down the line when they will remember Christine Sarbanes with that joy and with a little bit more lightness of their hearts than they are experiencing today.

DOD REPORT ON CHINA'S MILITARY POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, the Department of Defense released its annual report to Congress on China's military power.

The report released is an important reminder of why the Congressional China Caucus, the Congress and the American people should continue to monitor not only the expansion of China's military power but the way they exercise judgment in the use of it and other elements of national influence.

China's continuing buildup of advanced cruise missiles that can target aircraft carriers and other ships, its 260-ship Navy as compared to our 283-ship Navy, and its continued arm shipments to unstable countries demonstrates a global focus rather than a regional one.

Regrettably, over the past year, several incidents have threatened the strength of U.S.-Sino relations. In the last year, the FBI has stated that China has the most aggressive espionage program facing our Nation. U.S.