

Gaza through the Port of Ashod and other already established routes. The blockade was set in place to prevent weapons from being smuggled into Gaza. Although I am deeply saddened by the loss of human life that occurred during the interception of the flotilla, I do feel that the Israeli soldiers had every right to defend their lives against a hostile group who attacked them with clubs and knives.

The United States must stand by Israel and its right to self defense.

JOB CREATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important matter—job creation.

As I have previously mentioned, we have seen a lot of progress this year. Our economy has created over 500,000 new jobs in 2010 alone. The newest jobs numbers indicate that over 419,000 jobs were created last month. As a country we are getting stronger and stronger.

While these are great statistics, we still have a long way to go. Only 41,000 of these jobs were created in the private sector. Many of the remaining jobs are temporary census positions. While temporary work is better than no work, our economy and my constituents need and demand permanent job creation.

Some of this can certainly be government jobs, but our economy thrives on job creation and development from the private sector. From the mom and pop shop in Brooklyn to the company that hires by the thousands—each contribute to the economy, to communities, and to families.

Congress needs to continue to work together to enact policies that create and encourage job creation. I urge my colleagues both in the House and the Senate to come together on this important goal—jobs.

IN CELEBRATION OF NEW BETHEL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S
85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 85th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress it is both my honor and privilege to recognize and congratulate Reverend Keyon Payton and the congregation for reaching this most impressive milestone.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was founded on June 21, 1925 as an institution rooted in spiritual fellowship and service to the Pontiac community. From its inception, with 27 founding families and under the leadership of Reverend J.W. Conyers, New Bethel found its first home at 175 Branch Street, and became a beacon on a hill shining down upon the Pontiac community as a symbol of faith and fellowship. The passion of New Bethel's lead-

ers has forever been a core strength of the Church. According to New Bethel history, Reverend William Bell sold his own car and took the bus to deliver his sermons every week, so that the Church could repair and expand their aging facilities. This selfless act is one example of the deep devotion of New Bethel's congregation and leadership to the Church's mission. New Bethel's community-minded focus, first fully realized under the leadership of Reverend Amos Johnson, drove the Church to become a "Family Center," a pillar of charity and service in the Pontiac community.

Under New Bethel's current leader, Pastor Keyon Payton, the Church has continued to prosper and expand upon its goals to join the Pontiac community in spiritual fellowship and community service. Through execution of Pastor Payton's bold vision, New Bethel reached out to several of its neighboring congregations in collaboration to create Camp Hosanna, a day camp for youth that provides them with a safe and secure environment to explore all realms of education. Pastor Payton has also been the driving force behind many new community-based programs which New Bethel hopes to implement including an emergency shelter for women and children in need, a community development corporation to promote an economically vibrant and financially literate Pontiac community, and a youth development center to guide and nurture Pontiac's future leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church's 85th Anniversary of spiritual guidance and service to the Pontiac community. New Bethel's congregation and leadership have left a profound impact on the Pontiac community and have enriched the lives of many. I wish Pastor Payton, the New Bethel leadership and the entire congregation, many more years of vibrant spiritual fellowship and growth.

RETIREMENT FOR N. GARY
ROOKE, FORMER CEO, GREATER
SPRINGFIELD CREDIT UNION,
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Gary Rooke from the Greater Springfield Credit Union. After 19 years of committed, dutiful and effective employment, I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made to the lives of the credit union members and employees and would like to place this tribute into the official record.

Mr. N. Gary Rooke joined the Greater Springfield Credit Union on November 13, 1990, as manager/CEO and has significantly increased the health of the credit union since his arrival. Since his start in 1990, many services have been added to the Credit Union such as debit cards, Roth IRAs, prime checking, online banking, bill pay, youth accounts, overdraft protection, vacation/holiday/computer/energy loans, audio response, member wire transfers, credit cards and development of the East Longmeadow branch.

Mr. Rooke is also extremely involved in his community, serving 20 years at the Mountain

View Baptist Church, in which he has participated in many different ways. Gary served as the commander of Awana Youth Program as well as a Sunday school teacher, treasurer, church building committee, trustee and deacon. He has also been an active volunteer at the Westfield Boys and Girls club. Mr. Rooke also serves on many different committees which benefit the community.

On Thursday, July 17, Gary's colleagues, friends and family will honor his legacy and thank him for his successful work on behalf of others and join him in celebrating his retirement from the Greater Springfield Credit Union.

Gary Rooke has been a tremendous CEO to the Greater Springfield Credit Union in Springfield. I am proud to congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, June 8, 2010 was primary Election Day in my state of California, which necessitated my remaining in my congressional district on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, through Wednesday, June 9, 2010. Consequently, I was unable to return in time for rollcall votes 337 through 346.

I ask the RECORD to reflect that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 337, I would have voted "aye" (June 8) (H.R. 1061, Hoh Indian Tribe Safe Homelands Act).

2. On rollcall No. 338, I would have voted "aye" (June 8) (H. Res. 518, Honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation).

3. On rollcall No. 339, I would have voted "no" (June 9) (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5072—FHA Reform Act of 2010 (H. Res. 1424)).

4. On rollcall No. 340, I would have voted "no" (June 9) (On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 5072, the FHA Reform Act).

5. On rollcall No. 341, I would have voted "no" (June 9) (H. Res. 989—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should adopt national policies and pursue international agreements to prevent ocean acidification, to study the impacts of ocean acidification, and to address the effects of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal economies).

6. On rollcall No. 342, I would have voted "aye" (June 9) (H. Res. 1178—Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to compile the cost estimates prepared by the Congressional Budget Office which are included in reports filed by committees of the House on approved legislation and post such estimates on the official public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk).

7. On rollcall No. 343, I would have voted "aye" (June 9) (On the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4173—Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 which instructs the House Conferees to end the culture of bailouts embedded in the bill).

8. On rollcall No. 344, I would have voted "aye" (June 9) (H. Res. 1330—Recognizing June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day).

9. On rollcall No. 345, I would have voted "aye" (June 9) (H.R. 5278—To designate the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building" in Dixon, Illinois).

10. On rollcall No. 346, I would have voted "aye" (June 9) (H.R. 5133—To designate the "Staff Sergeant Frank T. Carvill and Lance Corporal Michael A. Schwarz Post Office Building" in Carlstadt, New Jersey).

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS for their efforts in bringing this important and necessary piece of legislation to the floor today.

As a result of the economic crisis, the Federal Housing Administration had to step in to fill the void that emerged when large numbers of homeowners experienced difficulty finding private companies willing to insure their mortgages. While increasing the number of loans it insured helped the FHA put more borrowers into new homes, it also severely depleted its capital reserves—causing them to fall below congressionally mandated levels.

One of the FHA's responsibilities is to provide mortgage insurance for low-income homeowners who otherwise would have difficulty accessing insurance. By providing insurance on loans made by approved lenders, the FHA has been able to guarantee the availability of inexpensive mortgages and help approximately 37 million borrowers. To insure that FHA has the resources necessary to continue performing this important function, Congress requires the FHA to maintain capital reserves of at least 2 percent. Under the economic strain of the past couple of years, these reserves have fallen well below that level. Even though the Department of Housing and Urban Development has taken significant administrative and regulatory steps to address the shortfall, as an added measure, the FHA has requested that Congress grant it the legislative authority to adjust its premium structure.

The bill we are voting on today provides the FHA with new authority to raise the annual premiums it receives from new borrowers with mortgages at or below 95 percent of the home's value. If this bill passes, FHA will be permitted to raise the premiums it receives on mortgage insurance to up to 1.55 percent of the loan balance. This move should enable the FHA to raise the funds it needs to restore its capital reserves to financial healthy levels—so that it can continue providing mortgage insurance to new home owners for many years to come.

Congress is committed to doing whatever it takes to get this economy going again, to get Americans back to work, to enable them to buy cars and homes and to start businesses. Our legislative efforts have taken many forms from small business tax cuts, to financial serv-

ices industry reform to the measure we are considering here today.

This is important legislation that will help the economy by helping many borrowers seeking mortgage insurance. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

STATEMENT ON BUSINESS LEADERS LETTER TO CONGRESS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I was recently contacted by over 50 U.S. Business leaders who all support an appropriate Foreign Affairs budget which will help the U.S. stay competitive globally and ultimately produce more jobs domestically. I am pleased to see that the business community has joined a number of non-profits who have come out in support of providing assistance abroad to help us reach our goals at home. Please see their letter below:

BUSINESS LEADERS LETTER TO CONGRESS

JUNE 8, 2010.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to urge your support for the International Affairs Budget and its important investments that help spur U.S. economic growth. The importance of the International Affairs Budget's development and diplomacy programs to U.S. national security and our moral leadership is well recognized. However, the vital role these programs play in creating American jobs and trade is not fully appreciated.

Now more than ever, America's economy is linked with global trade and economic growth. Over the past 40 years, trade has tripled as a share of our national economy. Today, 1 out of 5 American jobs are tied to international trade. America's fastest growing markets—representing roughly half of U.S. exports—are developing countries. Export promotion programs funded by the International Affairs Budget are essential to expanding U.S. trade in these emerging markets and are indispensable to reaching President Obama's goal of doubling exports within five years.

U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs benefit significantly from programs in the International Affairs Budget that provide technical assistance, identify business opportunities, and build stronger legal and economic policy regimes that help developing countries become more reliable trading partners. The International Affairs Budget is critical to promoting U.S. exports, protecting intellectual property rights, and advocating for American businesses abroad.

The International Affairs Budget is a fundamental tool for advancing U.S. economic and strategic interests around the world. That is why we urge you to support the President's FY 2011 request for the International Affairs Budget. Representing less than 1.5% of the total federal budget, it is a smart economic investment in a stronger and more prosperous future for American workers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA); Amway Corporation; Amgen; ARD; Biotechnology Industry Organization; Boeing; Business Council for International Understanding; Business Roundtable; Campbell Soup Company; Cargill; Caterpillar; Chevron; Cisco Systems; Inc.; Citigroup; Coalition for

Employment through Exports; Computer and Communications Industry Association; Corporate Council on Africa; Creative Associates International; DAI; DHL; DuPont; Eli Lilly and Company; FMC Corporation; General Electric Corporation; GlaxoSmithKline; Google; John Deere; Johnson & Johnson; Kraft Foods; Land O'Lakes; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Mars; Microsoft; Motorola; National Foreign Trade Council; National Retail Federation; Northrop Grumman Corporation; Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Pfizer; Procter & Gamble; PhRMA; Raytheon; RTI; Seaboard Corporation; Thales USA; Inc.; United Technologies Corporation; UPS; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S.-Russia Business Council; Wal-Mart; Xerox.

WHITE HOUSE HEALTH CARE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following opinion piece by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Nancy Desmond, CEO at the Center for Health Transformation. Their piece focuses on the Obama administration's latest attempt to sell the recently enacted health care reform law to senior citizens. The administration has embarked on its public relations tour after numerous reports detailing that the new health care law will reduce quality, raise costs, and limit choices for America's seniors.

In the run-up to passing their government takeover of health care, Congressional Democrats and the Obama administration blatantly ignored the voices of the American people and rammed through a hyper-partisan piece of legislation that will have a disastrous effect on our nation's health care system. That they are now choosing to mount a propaganda campaign at taxpayer expense to convince Americans that they should embrace these new, unwelcome disruptions and government intrusions, the Democrats show how out-of-touch they continue to be with the majority of Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to read the following fact check on the administration's claims. Our senior citizens deserve to know the truth about the effects of ObamaCare.

[From the Investors Business Daily, June 8, 2010]

SENIORS MUST SCRUTINIZE MEDICARE MAILER (By Newt Gingrich and Nancy Desmond)

As weeks turned to months during the Great Debate over what to do about health care this past year, President Obama made one solemn pledge to the nation and its seniors:

He said health care would not add one dime to the deficit. And if all of us liked our doctor, we would get to keep our doctor.

Fast-forward almost 90 days after the passage of ObamaCare and the attitude of most Americans to that pledge is: "Prove it."

In the past two weeks, the Obama administration has been trying to stem the tide of skepticism toward its health care law with a new mailer sent directly to the nation's seniors, titled "Medicare and the New Health Care Law—What it Means for You."