

unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 355, "yea"; rollcall 356, "yea"; rollcall 357, "yea".

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CAFFIE
GREENE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: To Penny, Raymond, Steve and the family of Caffie Greene, please accept my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your beloved mother, grandmother, and my friend, Caffie Greene.

Caffie was a brilliant community activist, one of a handful of strong African American women who used their God-given talents to speak up for the least of these. She fought alongside the women of South Los Angeles who led the struggle for justice and equality for so many years. Women such as Lillian Mobley, Mary Henry, Johnnie Mae Tillman, Catherine Germany, and Nola Carter.

Caffie was outspoken, confrontational, and fearless. She had the ability to influence politicians and elected officials with her strong organizing skills. She had the capability to articulate the pain and concerns of poor people; and she never hesitated to show up to meetings at the school board, city hall, press conferences or anywhere else she needed to be.

I know we will all miss Caffie, her strength and unique brilliance. But we must continue her work and honor her legacy which I hope will inspire and motivate a new generation of leaders to dedicate their lives in the service of others as she did. May she rest in peace.

HONORING ALTHEA MUSGROVE
NORCOTT FOR A LIFETIME OF
SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate a long career of dedicated service to the young people of Connecticut by Althea Musgrove Norcott, who is retiring this month after over three decades of teaching and education administration in New Haven.

A Connecticut girl through-and-through, Althea was born in New Haven to George and Mavis Musgrove, educated at West Haven High School and the University of Connecticut, and received a sixth year in administration and supervision at Southern Connecticut State University. In fact, with the exception of several years spent as a special education teacher in the United States Virgin Islands, she has spent her entire life in service to our state and community. And we are grateful to her for it.

For 31 years, Althea has worked to improve the scholarship and experience of students at Hillhouse High School. Beginning as a special education teacher for emotionally disturbed and learning disabled students in 1978, she was named assistant principal in charge of the English and Foreign Language Departments in

1994. In both positions, Althea has transformed the lives of thousands of students for the better, and enriched the Hillhouse High community with her wisdom, patience, and grace.

Not content to leave her good works at the schoolhouse door, Althea also worked to broaden the horizons of her students through trips to Egypt, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, as part of the Ambassadors for International Education program. And she has given of herself in countless other ways outside of Hillhouse, including chairing the New Haven Host Town Program of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games and co-founding and, for the past 14 years, chairing the Freetown-New Haven Sister Cities Committee.

I thank Althea deeply for these decades of service to our mutual hometown, and I congratulate her, her husband Justice Fleming L. Norcott, Jr., and their children Daryl, Tiffany, and Candace, on reaching this important milestone. Congratulations, Althea, you have earned it.

EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF GIFT CARD PROVISIONS OF CREDIT CARD LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5502, a bill to amend the implementation date of the gift card provisions of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009. I would like to thank Rep. MAFFEI for introducing this bill to correct and improve H.R. 627.

This amendment would change certain parts of Title IV of H.R. 627 passed by Congress on May 22, 2009. Due to the timing of the date of implementation of new rules and those already preparing for the holiday season, as well as the technical disclosure requirements set forth in the CARD Act, lots of gift cards already made and distributed will be in violation of the CARD Act disclosure provisions. Instead of requiring that the disclosure provisions be implemented, in August, 2010, 15 months after the bill's passing, the amendment would extend this date to January 31, 2011. A reasonable transition period is necessary for small businesses to avoid high costs by re-issuing prepaid cards and destroying already-made and shelved cards.

This bill will help countless Americans, including many who live in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia, by preventing the implementation of burdensome rules which could disrupt the use of gift cards. Passing this bill will remove an unintended obstacle to the use of gift cards and will ensure that consumers have the ability to use their gift cards as they choose. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SER-
GEANT MAJOR STEPHEN
FRENNIER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CSM Stephen Frennier, who has righteously served the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Command Sergeant Major Frennier has served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, KY, since June of 2008. During his tenure, Command Sergeant Major Frennier dedicated his time to visiting all the soldiers that were a part of his command throughout the 50 states, four U.S. possessions, and three additional countries that housed these men and women.

His strong leadership skills helped propel over 50 of his soldiers to be inducted into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Command Sergeant Major Frennier utilized these members by having them conduct volunteer mission within their local communities, fostering a relationship between the U.S. Army and civilians.

Throughout his career, Command Sergeant Major Frennier has not only been a remarkable example for the young men and women he has led, but a true warrior for his country. He always made sure to accomplish the task at hand, while taking care of the soldiers around him. Command Sergeant Major Frennier is an officer of tremendous nobility, honor and intellect.

I honor him today because of his dignified and dedicated commitment to the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, his soldiers, the citizens of this country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
HOUSING ADVOCATES, INC. OF
CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Housing Advocates, Inc., (HAI) which has fought for fair housing rights and equal housing opportunities for more than three decades.

Established in 1975, HAI is comprised of passionate attorneys, experienced in litigating civil rights cases, and dedicated support staff who work to ensure that fair housing laws and affordable and quality housing principles are followed.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Housing Advocates, Inc., whose advocacy on behalf of equal housing rights has helped the people of Northeast Ohio. The staff of Housing Advocates, Inc. safeguards civil rights and serve as protector and champion on behalf of housing rights for minorities, the disabled and the poor.

CELEBRATING THE LEAGUE OF
BLACK WOMEN'S ANNUAL LEAD-
ERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the League of Black Women on their annual leadership conference which commences today.

The League of Black Women, founded in the 1970's by Dr. Armita Young Boswell, works today to provide successful, strategic and sustaining leadership experiences for minority professionals and students. With nearly 10,000 members worldwide, the League provides continuing executive-level education. It also provides professional leadership coaching, mentor outreach to school-age students, support of small businesses, and with this conference, exposure of attendees to new relationships in the global corporate community.

More than 200 attendees from major corporations are expected to participate in five days of leadership development forums and executive presentations.

This year's conference theme is "Black Women 2010: Global Ready." As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I was honored to receive an invitation to participate in this year's forum titled "Women of Color in the U.S. Intelligence Community" and share insight on the prospects of women in Intelligence rising to higher leadership ranks.

Madam Speaker, the importance of diversity in the intelligence community cannot be overstated. It is one of our greatest strengths, as it is essential to addressing increasingly complex national security threats. We must continue to acquire and maintain an intelligence workforce that mirrors our nation and the world within which we operate.

With the hard work of the League of Black Women and other organizations committed to innovative diversity education and leadership research, we can create and sustain a diverse intelligence workforce.

Again, congratulations to the League of Black Women on this year's conference and look forward to celebrating another successful conference next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes which occurred on June 14, 2010. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll No. 355—H. Res. 1368—supporting the goals of National Dairy Month—"aye";

Roll No. 356—H. Res. 1409—expressing support for designation of June 20, 2010, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States—"aye";

Roll No. 357—H.R. 5502—to amend the effective date of the gift card provisions of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009—"aye."

THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE AND THE
FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for our ally and friend Israel. Israel is a country that has always backed the United States in its efforts to combat extremism, and that has proven throughout its short history that democratic ideals can take root in the most challenging of international neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I, like so many of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and like so many of my constituents in Sacramento, believe in Israel's right to defend itself. The people of Israel deserve to live without fear of being attacked by a terrorist organization—Hamas—that refuses both to recognize Israel's right to exist and to renounce the use of violence to achieve its objectives. For a number of years, both Israel and Egypt have enforced a blockade of Gaza to keep Hamas from acquiring material to launch rockets into Israel.

The recent tragedy aboard the Mavi Marmara could have been avoided, and should serve as a reminder to us all that our Nation must lead the international community in efforts to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East. My heart goes out to the families of those whose lives were lost, and to those Israeli soldiers who were seriously injured.

Prior to what took place on the Mavi Marmara, five previous ships in the flotilla bound for Gaza were redirected without incident. These five ships were sent to an Israeli port so that the goods they were carrying could be screened for material that could be used to make weapons. Much of their cargo has since been sent to Gaza.

Israel redirected five of the flotilla ships because it has the right—and the responsibility—to prevent Hamas from acquiring materials it uses to fire rockets at Israeli towns. At the same time, Israel must continue doing what it can to ensure that the people of Gaza have access to food and supplies needed to live. Much of the humanitarian material the flotilla was carrying will make it into the hands of innocent civilians in Gaza, just as millions of tons of humanitarian aid have been delivered to Gaza through Israel since the start of the blockade.

Mr. Speaker, what this incident demonstrates more than anything else is that a lasting Middle East peace is needed. For a peace settlement to be reached, the first step is for Hamas to meet a very simple set of preconditions established by the Quartet (the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, and Russia).

The Quartet's demands are not complicated: Hamas must join the rest of the international community by recognizing Israel's right to exist, renounce the use of violence, and abide by previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinian people. If Hamas were to do so, the Gaza blockade would end, Israel's security would improve, and peace negotiations could begin in earnest.

In the end, we should use this most recent tragedy as a catalyst to redouble our inter-

national efforts to achieve peace and security in the Middle East. Our objective must not change: we must create a peace that dismantles Hamas's terrorist infrastructure, improves the situation in Gaza, and guarantees the safety and security of innocent Israelis and Palestinians alike. The United States has been attempting to broker just such an agreement via proximity talks for months now.

Furthermore, the United States' goodwill toward the people who live in Gaza is clear. The President's announcement of a \$400 million initiative to improve Gazans' access to drinking water, create jobs, build schools, make affordable housing more accessible, and address critical health and infrastructure needs is just the kind of thing we need to change direction in the Middle East. I strongly support the President's initiative because I want the living conditions for the people of Gaza to improve just as I want living conditions for all people around the world to improve.

As an international community, we all need to examine our various approaches to achieving peace in the Middle East, to see if any calibrations can be made in our strategies that will increase the chances of success. The tragedy on the Mavi Marmara only underscores how urgent it is for the international system to do everything it can to protect the security of Israelis, meet the humanitarian and economic needs of the people in Gaza, and create a permanent peace in this critical part of the world.

I will continue to support Israel's right to defend itself and its citizens. At the same time, I long for the day when Israel and the Palestinians can live peacefully with one another, because that will mean that our efforts to achieve a viable peace agreement in the Middle East have been successful.

AMERICAN JOBS, CLOSING TAX
LOOPHOLES AND PREVENTING
OUTSOURCING ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes and Preventing Outsourcing Act. This legislation accelerates our economic recovery by creating or saving over 1 million jobs and by providing emergency aid to American families.

Our economic recovery is thankfully underway. The private sector is working again. Jobs are being added. The task before Congress is finding the right balance between addressing the federal budget deficits and debt and supporting American families still struggling with the lingering effects of the recession.

This bill is a life-preserver for the millions of Americans who are still looking for work. For our youth experiencing record-high unemployment and looking for work this summer, this bill allocates funding that will support 350,000 jobs. It also provides emergency funding for a much-needed unemployment insurance extension through the end of November 2010. In addition to assisting those Americans hardest hit by the recession, these resources will stimulate the economy—every \$1 spent in unemployment benefits generates at least \$1.63 in