

projects to improve the safety and efficiency of fossil fuel production technologies like deep-water drilling. It only makes sense that this legislation preserves the National Energy Technology Laboratories' role in conducting research on a subject on which they have so much knowledge and experience.

I am pleased that Chairman GORDON has confirmed that it is the Committee's intention that the National Energy Technology Laboratories will continue their important work on deepwater drilling research under the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research program addressed in this legislation.

I commend the Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee for drafting legislation to shift the focus of the Department of Energy's deepwater drilling research to prioritize safety and environmental protection. It's clear from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy that there's a pressing need to dedicate more resources to this important goal.

**COST ESTIMATE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
FOR THE BILL H.R. 5503**

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Please find enclosed the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office for the bill H.R. 5503, the "Securing Protections for the Injured from Limitations on Liability Act." This cost estimate was not made available at the time the Committee Report (111-521, Part 1) was filed on June 30, 2010. The Committee respectfully requests that this cost estimate be printed in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, JR.,  
*Chairman.*

Enclosure.

*H.R. 5503—Securing Protections for the Injured from Limitations on Liability Act*

H.R. 5503 would amend several laws related to private liability that apply to injury or death incurred by workers on ocean-going vessels or on certain other facilities located in the ocean. The act also would amend the bankruptcy code to require any purchaser of a bankrupt company to pay any obligations of the firm that stem from damages caused by an oil spill. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

Enacting H.R. 5503 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The act would expand both the Death on the High Seas Act (DOHSA) and the Jones Act to enable the surviving family members of a deceased worker to receive monetary compensation for nonmonetary damages as a result of the death of a relative on an ocean-going vessel or certain other facilities located in the ocean (such as oil-drilling rigs). H.R. 5503 also would extend the distance from shore that would make ships subject to the provisions of DOHSA, and it would repeal the Limitation of Liability Act, a law that limits the value of certain damages that can

be charged to vessel owners. H.R. 5503 also would allow state attorneys general to bring suit for remedial action under the Class Action Fairness Act. Because those provisions would affect the liability of private firms, CBO estimates that enacting them would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 5503 would amend the bankruptcy code to require any purchaser of a bankrupt company with obligations related to an oil spill to pay those obligations that are owed to victims of the oil spill. Based on information from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), CBO estimates that this provision would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 5503 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

By making unenforceable agreements that restrict individuals from disseminating information regarding the discharge of oil or other contaminants into waters off the shore of the United States, the act would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The legislation would limit the ability of parties connected with such spills to prevent their employees, or others with whom they have agreements, from providing information about matters related to a spill. CBO estimates that the aggregate direct cost of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for the private sector (\$141 million, in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Sarah Puro (for maritime issues), Martin von Gnechten (for bankruptcy), and Marin Randall (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

**HONORING ROBERT EDWARD  
STEINHAEUER OF NAPA COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Steinhauer, who is being honored as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Mr. Steinhauer and his family have a long and storied history in California agriculture. He first found his way to the Napa Valley in 1971, serving as Vineyard Manager for Napa Valley Vineyard Company. In 1979, he joined Beringer Blass Wine Estates and served as senior vice president of vineyard operations for over 25 years. During his tenure, he was responsible for farming operations on over 10,400 acres of vineyards in five counties. He also managed grape purchases from over 400 growers for one of the Napa Valley's legendary wine companies. Today he is president and part owner of Wineland Consulting and is still a farmer; he owns 20 acres of raisin vineyards in Fresno.

Mr. Steinhauer's 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year Award is one of many he has earned during his distinguished career. He was the recipient of the 1983 Foremost McKesson California Vintner Award, 1978 Fresno State Viticulture Alumni Award, Copia 2004 Winegrower of the Year Award, 2005 Wine Integrity Award

and the 2008 Merit Award from the American Society for Enology and Viticulture.

Robert is known as one of the kindest and most generous people in the industry. His legacy will be carried on by his daughter Anne, who continues the family agricultural tradition with the Napa Valley Vintners Association. This honor is long overdue and I am fortunate to be able to call Mr. Steinhauer a friend.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize my dear friend Robert Steinhauer for his countless contributions to California agriculture. The Napa Valley and the entire agricultural community owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. He is a true giant in the industry. I join his wife Verna, daughter Anne and son Erik in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

**CONGRATULATING BUGEYE  
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bugeye Technologies, Inc., located in Pacific Missouri, for their efforts in upgrading the AS9100 Quality Management System Registration. Bugeye Technologies is a leading provider of replicated hardware for the simulation industry, and produces flight controls, visual display systems and simulated cockpits for military applications.

Bugeye Technologies recent upgrade will increase productivity and enhance their competitive position in the global marketplace. This upgrade will also benefit the Ninth Congressional district and Missouri by spurring local economic development by creating and sustaining manufacturing jobs.

I would like to take this time to commend Bugeye Technologies for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Bugeye Technologies, Inc., for a job well done.

**LETTER FROM PAUL DEBRI, OF  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I recently received a letter from a constituent, Mr. Paul Debri, who expressed concerns about the welfare of our country. In particular, Mr. Debri decried a lack of responsibility accepted by Members of Congress, and conveyed his anxiety over partisanship. Mr. Debri's letter offered a sobering perspective of how our daily actions in Washington are viewed by the people we are elected to represent.

Of note, the correspondence which I received included a copy of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (Cong. Rec. 1 Sept. 1950: A6328) from Friday, September 1, 1950 and the extended remarks of my predecessor, the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Jr. The attitude toward Congress expressed by Mr. Debri was shared by his grandfather, Mr. Irwin Koropas, who

wrote then to Representative Ford with similar reservations and a challenge to share those sentiments with the Congress, which Representative Ford did.

I share Mr. Debris' concerns about the lack of civility and personal responsibility in Congress. Throughout my seventeen years in Washington, I have strived to follow the call of Micah 6:8 "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Mr. Debris' letter is a good reminder of the humility and civility needed in Congress. I have also sought to follow the advice of Edmund Burke, a noted British parliamentarian, who said "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

For the edification of my colleagues, Mr. Debris' letter is below:

*Grand Rapids, MI, May 31, 2010.*

REPRESENTATIVE EHLERS, I have just returned home on this stormy Memorial Day morning after spending time with a member of my family. While driving home I realized that I needed to voice my concern with you over the welfare of our country. More specifically on the ineptness of the Legislative Branch to work in harmony with one another to strengthen and unite this country.

Yes, I have voted for you in past elections and consider myself a Republican, but I have also voted for Democrats on more than one occasion. What is so special about this country is that I have the right to choose the men and women that are sent to Washington D.C. Unfortunately, after the polls close and the elected officials, Republican or Democrat, take their oath they seem to serve only one person. That person being themselves.

It seems as though not a day goes by when a politician is in the news double talking their way around a simple question, pushing blame off to another person or political party, or making promises to the American people by saying one thing and not even doing anything to resolve the issue. When asked a question, give a straight forward answer. When confronted with wrong doing, take responsibility. Don't blame others. When making promises, act with integrity and accomplish what you set forth to do with no complaints.

Included is a copy of a letter from Mr. Irwin Koropas to former Representative Gerald R. Ford back in 1950. Mr. Koropas was concerned with the inability of Congress to work together by getting off their proverbial high horse to preserve this great country. Sadly, the same concern holds true today. Sixty years have passed and Congress still does not understand what the American people want. Do what you were elected to do...work for the American people, not yourself.

Mr. Irwin Koropas served his country proudly. He loved his wife and daughter and modeled examples of honesty, respect, and patriotism to his three grandchildren. The good Lord called him home some years ago, but he is never forgotten. Every Memorial Day I visit him. I visit my grandpa. I will never be embarrassed to be an American or to call this great land home. However, I am embarrassed by the elected politicians serving in the nation's capital. Who will be the first politician to put aside political partisanship and honestly and faithfully put the needs of Americans ahead of their own personal agenda?

I'll close this letter with the words my grandpa wrote to then Representative Ford sixty years ago. Representative Ehlers, "Please read this to Congress if you got the guts, which I think you have."

Respectfully,

PAUL DEBRIS,  
*Grand Rapids, MI.*

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Monday, July 19, 2010.

For Monday, July 19, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 448 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1472); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 449 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 126); and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 450 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1219).

## REGARDING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the island of Cyprus to honor the memory of the nearly 5,000 Cypriots who lost their lives during the invasion and to remember the 200,000 Cypriots who were forcibly removed from their homes and the nearly 1,500 Cypriots who are still missing to this day.

A deep respect for freedom, human rights and the rule of law unite the people of Cyprus and the United States. We must draw upon these common values and democratic vision as we work together toward a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Cyprus.

All Cypriots deserve a united island that fulfills the promise of peace and democracy for which a generation has paid so dearly. The United States stands with the people of Cyprus as they work to achieve a bi-communal and bi-zonal reunification under a single sovereignty with respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

Now that the elections are over, the U.S. joins other nations in encouraging President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Eroglu to resume their efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

## RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT OWENS

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful life and accomplishments of Albert Owens with sadness as I mourn his passing. Mr. Owens, one of the first African-Americans to leave his indelible mark on the entertainment industry, recently passed away due to illness at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. He was sixty-one years of age.

Albert began his career as a founding member of the Charles Unicycle Riders. He gained

national recognition in 1965, after appearing as a guest on the hit television show "I've Got a Secret." Albert and his group eventually became the Ringling Bros. first African-American troupe, changing their name to the 'King Charles Troupe.' He also performed acts with the Barnum & Bailey Circus among many others, and reached a new level of national fame.

Yet, Albert's roots remained grounded as his determination to assist his hometown never wavered. When not traveling and performing, he was a devoted family man who returned home to his Bronx community to continue his work as a volunteer. Albert worked tirelessly to counsel the city's youth with the YMCA, using the unicycle as a tool to engage young people and help them build stronger character. He mentored the next generation up until his passing, never swaying from his resolve to provide the blueprint for success which they can all follow.

Albert Owens was a man of devotion with a commitment to service. Despite his well-earned fame and his standing within the entertainment industry, he always put the needs of his community and the hopes and dreams of others before his own. Albert was a man of many talents and friends. I am honored to say that he was a friend to the city of New York.

## RECOGNIZING THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN THE HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

### HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2010*

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, the Bluegrass Region of Central Kentucky is one of the most picturesque spots in our country. Central Kentucky has miles of rolling fields of pasture partitioned with plank fencing. These fields and farms house some of the most spectacular athletes on the planet—horses—giving our region its name: the Horse Capital of the World. And in a few short weeks, the world is coming to see it.

For the first time since its start in 1990, the World Equestrian Games are coming to America and more specifically, to the Kentucky Horse Park. Lexington will take its place alongside other host cities to showcase the magnificence of the horse. Lexington and Central Kentucky will be on an international platform that in the past has included Stockholm, The Hague, Rome, Jerez in Spain and Aachen, Germany.

For 16 days, visitors and spectators from every state in the union and more than 50 other countries will see championship level competition in dressage, eventing, endurance, driving, reining, vaulting, jumping, and para-dressage marking. And, for the first time, all eight competitions will be held at a single venue.

Truly this event will benefit the region and one of Kentucky's signature industries. In addition to an economic impact of millions, hundreds of members of the media from 40 or more countries will attend this event. Televised coverage of this event will represent the largest major network broadcast of equestrian sport in U.S. television history and presents a tremendous opportunity to portray the scenic beauty of Central Kentucky in a manner that may never be rivaled again.