

fast-track basis, guaranteeing an up-or-down vote within a specified time frame. While expedited rescission will not eliminate the federal deficit, it will be one more tool to control spending. Forty Democrats have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, including five Budget Committee members.

Finally, in light of the Budget Committee's broad oversight role on the federal budget, four Committee members have been appointed to the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. With representation on both sides of the aisle from the House, the Senate, and the private sector, the Commission is charged with building consensus on ways to wipe out the deficit and improve the long-term fiscal sustainability of major entitlement programs. The House Democratic leadership has pledged to vote this year on any legislative recommendations reported by the Commission and approved by the Senate, and agrees that deficit reduction as a result of the recommendations cannot be used to offset costs of future legislation. The deficit-reduction proposals of the bipartisan commission will be issued in December.

The Budget Committee will continue to examine ways to reduce the deficit and increase efficiency in government spending. I look forward to working further with all Members of Congress to address the long-term budget challenges facing the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH M.
WOJCICK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joseph M. Wojcik, a native and lifelong resident of South River, New Jersey. Mr. Wojcik's outstanding legacy of public service, commitment and dedication to his community, as well as civic achievements, are unquestionably worthy of this body's recognition.

Joseph M. Wojcik's career of public service began early as a student studying at Rutgers University. While attending college, he ran for positions on the South River Board of Education and the South River Town Council. His enthusiasm for and commitment to service continued into his professional life when Mr. Wojcik served the South River Planning Board as well as the South River Recreation Commission. Furthermore, he has dedicated time to the South River Knights of Columbus where he has had the honor to serve as Deputy Grand Knight, as well as Grand Knight in recent years. Currently, Mr. Wojcik is actively working for the Borough of South River.

Mr. Wojcik's time and energy has also been dedicated to engaging with the Polish community in Middlesex County, of which he is a member. His efforts have been repeatedly recognized and, in a special tribute to his status in the community, this year he has been given the honor of serving as the Grand Marshall of the Middlesex County Pulaski Day Parade. Mr. Wojcik's father led the same parade as Grand Marshall in the early 1980's. As a proud citizen of Polish heritage, Mr. Wojcik embodies what the Parade's highest honorary position entails.

Madam Speaker, Joseph Wojcik epitomizes what it means to give back to one's community. Please join me in leading this body in acknowledgment of the extraordinary contributions of Joseph M. Wojcik. He has worked tirelessly throughout his life to assist the residents of South River and his dedication should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF CORNING,
MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri, as they celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary.

Since being founded as the Deutsch Evangelish Lutheraner St. Johannes in 1860, the St. John's congregation has remained a pillar of the community. The efforts of the community to save the church during the historic floods of 1951 and 1993 highlight the importance of this church to the surrounding area. The historical nature of the church was recognized in 2008 when it was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri for their 150 years of service to the Corning community.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS RELATING TO EFFI-
CIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT
TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C) of House Resolution 1493, "Sense of the House on Deficit Reduction," requesting Committees of the House of Representatives to submit findings which identify changes in law that would help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and which promote efficiency and reform of government and control spending in programs under committee jurisdiction, I submit this report. It includes an accounting of Committee legislation that: (a) has been enacted into law; (b) has been passed by the House and/or considered by the Committee; or (c) is presently being drafted in Committee under my direction. In each case I have ensured that legislation accomplishes, or will accomplish, the objectives called for the Budget Enforcement Resolution.

ENACTED LEGISLATION

The Committee reported out the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 1886), which streamlined and developed tighter benchmarks and accountability measures for the substantial American economic and military assistance being provided to the Government of Pakistan. In conference with the Senate, this bill was

passed as the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which became Public Law 111-73.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE

On June 4, 2009, the Committee reported H.R. 2410, authorizing appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and to modernize the Foreign Service and other international affairs-related programs and agencies.

Title II, Section 211, of the legislation requires the Secretary of State to improve coordination among all the various efforts within the government to conduct public diplomacy.

Section 216 reauthorizes an Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy charged with conducting an in-depth review of public diplomacy programs, policies, and activities to assess their effectiveness.

Section 302 of the legislation directs the development of a national review of diplomacy and development every four years in order to make policies and programs more effective and efficient.

Section 303 authorizes the establishment of a Lessons Learned Center in order to provide support for best practices in our diplomacy and development efforts.

The legislation also contains such cost savings proposals as limiting compensatory time off for travel by Foreign Service Officers and providing for the suspension of Foreign Service Officers without pay.

Title VIII of the legislation, entitled "Export Control Reform And Security Assistance," includes:

Section 828 which require the Secretary to present plans to make defense trade licensing self-financing.

Section 807, permits the Secretary to use registration fees for licensing functions currently supported by appropriated funds.

Section 826 grants the President the flexibility to remove satellites and related components from the munitions list, thus reducing licensing costs for these items.

Title IX, "Actions To Enhance the Merida Initiative," requires the President to establish and implement a program to assess the effectiveness of assistance provided under the Merida Initiative.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Committee introduced the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 2139) that requires the Administration to develop a National Strategy for Global Development which would define and streamline the roles of each department and agency engaged in development policies. It includes a provision that requires the development and implementation of a rigorous system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of United States foreign assistance.

LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED

The Committee has also begun work on two major legislative reforms:

The first is an extensive effort to rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The purpose of the overhaul is to increase the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of foreign aid programs, which are currently fragmented across 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and nearly 60 government offices. In so doing, I hope to clear away many of the inefficiencies and program duplications which have developed since the last major re-write of the legislation in 1985.

The current system of unclear mandates, fragmented authorities, overlapping responsibilities, antiquated rules and tortuous procedures hampers our ability to deliver aid to the people who need it at the lowest possible cost. One lesson of the 1990s is that reductions in force at USAID did not result in improved efficiency. Instead, a specialized and experienced federal workforce was largely replaced by a contractor bureaucracy that operates at higher cost and with less accountability. Another lesson was that elimination of the USAID office that conducted program monitoring and evaluation seriously hindered our ability to assess the performance of our aid programs and share and replicate best practices. When resource allocations are made without the benefit of quantitative program indicators and rigorous impact evaluations, there is little basis for determining which activities and approaches are most effective and where the needs are greatest. Both H.R. 2139 and the foreign aid reform bill currently being drafted contain mandatory requirements for monitoring and evaluation of all foreign assistance programs.

The second is a redraft of legislation under the Export Administration Act of 1979 to reauthorize, streamline and update the Act to ensure that it is responsive to both current security threats and the international commercial environment in which U.S. firms must compete.

The staff draft of the export administration legislation includes two provisions requiring a periodic independent evaluation of the system. One provision would require evaluations of the effectiveness of export controls in protecting U.S. national security and would require the evaluations, with recommendations for improvements, to be sent directly to the President and Congress. The second provision would require an evaluation of the effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy in engaging with the four multilateral export control organizations. These would be the first systemic evaluations of U.S. export controls and our diplomacy regarding controls. They would contribute to modernization of the current system, which is widely judged to be falling behind in its mission.

On a related point, the Committee staff is engaged in oversight of both the Export Administration Regulations (dual-use) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (munitions) to strengthen the effectiveness of regulations, licensing and enforcement. Such oversight led to enactment of a provision in the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act (P.L. 111–195) to strengthen the enforcement authority of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

Separate from the preceding, the Committee staff is drafting legislation that would provide the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee with new authority over agencies' programs and budgets. The draft legislation would require coordination of the federal government's 17 export promotion programs, to more effectively deploy existing budgetary and staffing resources to increase U.S. exports. The bill also would require a reallocation of resources in the U.S. Commercial Service to overseas markets with potential for increased purchase of U.S. exports. The draft legislation is in response to Committee staff inquiries and a series of GAO reports that have identified significant

overlap, gaps and inefficiencies in these programs.

Finally, in terms of the Committee's oversight of ongoing agency activities, Committee staff conduct assiduous review of agencies' advance notifications of grants and contracts under programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The goal is to ensure that proposed expenditures are in line with applicable statutes, federal policy and program goals. Proposed expenditures that raise questions are examined and then blocked if found to be inappropriate. As an example, in August, Committee staff urged the Trade and Development Agency to reconsider a proposed contract for technical services that could be provided more cost-effectively by federal employees. The agency did so and cancelled the proposed contract.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT
ROLE ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, AND
OTHER WILDLIFE ORGANIZA-
TIONS HAVE PLAYED IN THE RE-
SPONSE EFFORTS IN THE GULF
REGION FOLLOWING THE DEEP-
WATER HORIZON OIL SPILL
THAT BEGAN ON APRIL 20, 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the important role zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations have played in the response efforts in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Even in difficult economic times, zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife institutions have provided valuable staff and resources for rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf region. This resolution would give these organizations the praise and support they deserve for their dedication and selfless contributions.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified zoos and aquariums as important partners in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the wildlife impacted by the oil spill. Many of these institutions already have in place established programs for animal rescue and rehabilitation as well as the resources needed to address short-term and long-term impacts of the oil spill on animals and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The unique expertise of the professionals at zoos and aquariums is invaluable to responding to environmental disasters like that in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Additionally, their contributions to conservation programs, science education, and community development deserve our continued support and appreciation.

One of these valuable organizations is the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, AZA. Established in 1924, the AZA has been dedicated to advancing the work of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. There are over 200 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in 46 states, where they support more than 126,000 jobs and attract 180 million visitors annually. Of these AZA-accredited institutions, 70 have contributed to the rescue and rehabilitation ef-

forts in the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill which began on April 20, 2010.

I am proud to have the Palm Beach Zoo, an AZA-accredited institution, in my district. The Palm Beach Zoo actively promotes conservation and education programs, including the incorporation of Species Survival Plans and Population Management Plans through the AZA.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the important work that these organizations do and for their partnership in the recovery efforts in the Gulf region. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the important contributions zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations make in our communities.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, we have witnessed the personal courage and sacrifice made by so many West Virginians, who serve our great state and country proudly in our armed forces. But we must never forget those who lost their life on September 11, 2001—a most tragic day in our history.

Today, it is appropriate that the formal federal recognition ceremony at the West Virginia National Guard for its Joint Interagency Training and Education Center coincides with the ninth anniversary of terrorist attacks on America.

Those who delivered the blows hoped their cowardly actions would mark the beginning of our destruction. Instead, they reaffirmed our commitment to our founding values and inspired a renewed dedication to embrace once again that America's destiny is the world's destiny—to secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Today will always be a solemn day for Dr. Kenneth and Sharon Ambrose who lost their son, Dr. Paul Ambrose. He was on board American Airlines Flight 77 that was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Pentagon. His passion to improve health care and the well being of West Virginians through better nutrition and activity lives on through the Paul Wesley Ambrose Health Policy Program, a fellowship program at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health being developed for Huntington with the Rahall Transportation Institute. PATH is a 26-mile walking and shared-road trail that encompasses nearly every part of the city.

The Puritan preacher John Winthrop proclaimed as he and his followers sailed for America and freedom, "The eyes of all people are upon us."

Many have looked to us in awe, over the last nine years and through the nearly four centuries of our history—inspired by our nation rooted in liberty, and today we must re-dedicate ourselves to continue our mission to improve life and protect those freedoms we all hold dear.