

in order to ensure healthy physical and emotional development of their children. Living in poverty also greatly hinders a child's access to quality education, health care, and living conditions. This is unacceptable. Children are a public good, and it is imperative that our country invests in and ensures the prosperity of its youngest citizens.

The unemployment rate in my home state of Illinois, which was higher than the national average, was 10.1 percent this past August up 4.6 percentage points from December 2007. This represents 671,000 Illinois residents who lost more than just earnings—this represents hundreds of thousands of families whose entire means of financial support is gone. This massive unemployment rate has contributed greatly to the high foreclosure rate in Illinois. In Illinois as of the second quarter of 2010, 6.0 percent of all mortgages, including 18.1 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure.

Alarming as well is the way that this economic downturn has hit some communities much harder than others. According to the most recent congressional Joint Economic Committee findings, the poverty rate for African Americans and Hispanics increased significantly from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, the poverty rate was 25.8 percent for African Americans and 25.3 percent for Hispanics, compared to 24.5 percent for African Americans and 21.5 percent for Hispanics in 2007. Important to notice as well is the disparity in the number of minorities currently insured. The percentages of Hispanics and African Americans without health insurance are higher than that of whites and other racial or ethnic groups. Nearly one-third of Hispanics and over one-fifth of African Americans were uninsured in 2009, compared with about one-tenth of whites.

While the number of people living in poverty remains much too high, we must recognize that this number was not as high as originally expected given the severity of the recession and the massive job losses last year. I am proud of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress this past year that expanded unemployment benefits and Social Security payments. This act also helped to create and save approximately 3.5 million jobs, gave tax cuts to small business and 95 percent of American workers, and began to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure. Access to the job market is one of the first steps in helping individuals rise out of poverty, and this legislation increased jobs for the unemployed as well as the underemployed.

This past year we have begun to reform our current healthcare system and passed legislation that enables 11 million children to finally be able to access and maintain cost-effective quality healthcare. Signed into law as well was the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, which guarantees access to life-saving medical services, primary care, and medications for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV. Both of these legislative acts will greatly enhance the well being of individuals with limited financial resources.

While there remains much to be done to improve access to quality education, healthcare, and job opportunities in the United States, I am proud of the progress that has been made by this Congress. It is imperative that in this current economic crisis, the Federal govern-

ment assists state governments in addressing the needs of individuals and their families. Our communities cannot afford to allow poverty to take hold of so many hard working individuals and families. Therefore, I recognize all of those living in poverty in the United States, and, in the spirit of this season, I promise to continue to promote programs to reduce poverty and support those in need.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's legislation to make important national investments and protect food safety.

The FY 11 Continuing Resolution will fund government operations at FY 2010 levels through the end of the current fiscal year. At \$45.9 billion less than President Obama originally requested, Chairman OBEY and the rest of the Appropriations Committee obviously had a very difficult set of choices to make, and I want to commend their efforts to address the nation's needs within the context of these significant fiscal constraints. In particular, I am gratified that today's bill provides \$5.7 billion to meet the current shortfall in the Pell Grant program and gives the Department of Energy latitude to expand the Advanced Research Projects Agency—or ARPA-E—program designed to advance transformative energy research. At the same time, I do not support the provision unilaterally freezing non-military federal pay for the next 2 years. While I agree with the President that we must have a serious national debate about how to reduce the deficit and tackle the national debt, I would prefer to address our budget challenges in a thorough, comprehensive way.

While I would prefer adoption of the stronger food safety legislation passed by the House, the Senate-passed FDA Food Safety Modernization Act we are considering today does make substantial improvements to our food safety system. It includes critical reforms that will improve food safety by providing FDA with the necessary authority to better prevent outbreaks, including increased inspections, enhanced surveillance and traceability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a yes vote.

CYRIL ADOLPHUS BARNES CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our very own Virgin Islanders, Cyril Adolphus Barnes, as he celebrates his 100th birthday of December 22, 2010.

Mr. Barnes was born on St. Croix on December 22, 1910, to Philip Barnes and Mary Eliza King. He was raised surrounded by strong family members including George Jack-

son, Headmaster of the then Christiansted School.

Believing that the mainland United States would provide a better opportunity, in 1926 Mr. Barnes traveled by sea aboard the *Dominica* to New York. He, like many who went to the "big city," soon learned that the streets of New York were not paved in gold and in order to accomplish his goals, he had to work hard.

He did and continued his education. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served until his honorable discharge in 1946. Returning back to civilian life, he became employed by the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1979.

After spending 53 years on the mainland, Mr. Barnes relocated back to his birthplace of St. Croix, where among other community involvements, he became an active member of American Legion Post No. 85.

In March of 1929, he married Gerda Barnes, also from St. Croix and they became the parents of two children, Leroy and Doretha Barnes Stevens (both deceased). He had three other children, Maria Barnes (deceased), Harold Barnes and Violet Barnes Hughes. His family also includes six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He has numerous friends and family members that will be celebrating his 100 years of life.

On behalf of myself, my staff, the entire Virgin Islands community and the Congress of the United States, I say "Mr. Barnes, thank you for your service and we wish you a Happy Birthday and many more years filled with God's richest blessings."

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like the following remarks to be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for H.R. 3082, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011 provides important protections to the United States food supply. However, it targets much of its focus on "facilities" as defined and registered under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the "Bioterrorism Act"), codified in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act at Section 415 (21 U.S.C. Sec. 350d). That reference to "facilities" registered under the Bioterrorism Act has led to confusion. While some companies may have registered their operations as "facilities" under the Bioterrorism Act in an abundance of caution, those companies should not now become subject to the full range of FDA's jurisdiction as a result of this Bill.

It was never the intent of this legislation to include seed production or storage establishments in the definition of "facility", for purposes of either FFDCA Sec. 415 or for the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011. In many respects, these establishments are similar to farms, which are exempted from Sec. 415's definition of "facility". Nevertheless, earlier lack of clarity as to Congress's intent

regarding this matter has led to confusion in an industry that has historically not been subject to regulation by FDA.

These establishments provide necessary agricultural inputs to growers of food, feed, fiber and fuel stocks. In some instances, seed grown in Southern Hemisphere countries is imported to provide American farmers fresh, quality seed for spring planting. Seed intended for planting is not food or feed and should not be regulated as such, at the border or anywhere else. It is not the intent of this bill to do so.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY LEADER AND ACTIVIST MS. SHIRLEY ROBERTS

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Ms. Shirley Roberts, who passed away on December 7, 2010, at the age of 79. My heart goes out to her son, Chuck Henry; the many dear and loving friends that she embraced as her family; and all the people whose lives she touched and helped make better.

Born in Los Angeles, Shirley was an extraordinary citizen, a champion of progressive causes, and a vibrant mainstay in Democratic politics. She attended Fairfax High School and graduated from UCLA with a degree in business administration. Shirley's love of politics and human rights ran deep in her family. Her parents, Bernard and Esther, were dedicated to causes to improve conditions for the working poor. By 1944, Shirley would follow their example by co-chairing the American Youth for [Franklin D.] Roosevelt organization for Los Angeles County.

Shirley later went on to support Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. An early advocate for better health care services for all Los Angeles residents, she served on the Mayor's staff and initiated outreach support programs for better nutrition, transportation, long-term care, and escort programs for seniors.

In addition, Shirley was a community activist in her home of West Hollywood. When rent prices increased sharply in the early 1980s, Shirley joined other West Hollywood residents to support the city's incorporation to better serve its diverse residents. The effort succeeded, and the city has since been a leader in providing social services to the people who call it home. In subsequent years, she would serve on the West Hollywood Human Services Commission and the West Hollywood Election Reform Task Force.

Shirley was also a tireless and tenacious force aiding numerous local, state, and national campaigns of Southern California's progressive political stars, including former Congresswoman and U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Congressman Henry Waxman, Senator Sheila Kuehl, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and City Controller Wendy Greuel.

Shirley was generous with her friendship, guidance, and wisdom in the lives she touched. Her activism, leadership, and commitment to those who were most vulnerable will be deeply missed. I urge all my House col-

leagues to join me in honoring our community hero, Shirley Roberts, for her remarkable service and contributions to the City of Angels and to our country.

HONORING DR. JAY SHERIDAN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a teacher from my district who recently retired. This teacher has given the past 40 years of his life to improve the quality of public education in his community of Yuma, Arizona.

Dr. Jay Sheridan has been a teacher at Yuma High School in Yuma, Arizona for almost 40 years. He was born in Clinton, Iowa in 1943. His father was a B-26 pilot in the 8th Air Force in Europe, and Sheridan and his mother resided with her parents in the village of Thomson, Illinois in the months after his birth. In November 1948, Sheridan, his parents and his sister moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sheridan attended kindergarten in Greendale, Wisconsin, one of President Franklin Roosevelt's planned communities from the 1930s. He continued his elementary education at Valley View School, a small country school near Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Sheridan's family then moved to the Elm Grove, Wisconsin area in 1959, and Sheridan graduated from Brookfield Central High School in 1962. Sheridan then moved to the great State of Arizona to study at the University of Arizona, my alma mater. He graduated eight short semesters later with a degree in English and a minor in philosophy.

After graduating, Sheridan went to law school at Valparaiso University. Shortly after entering law school Sheridan was drafted into the military in 1967. He honorably served our country in Vietnam from August of 1968 to July of 1969 in the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor (4th Infantry Division).

After Sheridan was honorably discharged, he enrolled at Northern Arizona University to pursue a Master of Arts degree in English. He was awarded his degree in May of 1972 and accepted an offer as an English teacher at Yuma High School. In the summer of 1972, Sheridan met his wife Sally, a Yuma native. The two were married the following summer and have now been married 37 years. Sally, also a teacher, gave countless years to the Yuma community just as her husband did.

Sheridan was appointed Chair of the English Department at Yuma High in 1973 and spent his entire professional career at Yuma High. He taught every level of English during the course of his teaching career. Beginning in the early 1980s, he began teaching the National Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition course and assisted hundreds of students in earning passing scores on the national exam.

Sheridan completed his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Arizona in August 1979 on the high school English department chair position in secondary schools west of the Mississippi River. He became chair of the Modern Languages department (in addition to the English department), with supervisory responsibilities over English as a Second Language,

French, German and Spanish classes. At one time, in addition to his teaching duties, Sheridan had supervisory responsibilities over more than thirty teachers at Yuma High School. Sheridan also taught part-time for Northern Arizona University/Yuma for a number of years (advanced composition and English teaching methods).

In 2001, Sheridan was awarded the honor of Yuma County High School Teacher of the Year by the Education Foundation of Yuma.

Sheridan accomplished a great deal during his time at Yuma High School. His proudest achievement was helping Yuma High earn first place in the district on the state AIMS writing exam for 2006, 2007 and 2008. He also recalls with fondness the yearly student trips to the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, which he organized and supervised for more than a decade. Students read, analyzed, and discussed a Shakespeare play in August and September of each year, and then two busloads of Yuma High students would travel to San Diego to view the play they had studied. Students were able to engage in analytical conversations with the actors immediately following the performances. Sheridan again gave Yuma High students opportunities that many could otherwise not afford.

Dr. Sheridan retired from Yuma High School in May of 2010. He remains in touch with a few hundred of his former students and he continues to encourage them in their college and professional endeavors. In almost 40 years Sheridan has touched the lives of thousands of students who have passed through the halls of Yuma High School. He encouraged students who doubted they were ready for advanced placement classes to work hard and pass the test. He kindled students' love for literature and Shakespeare in one short year. He pushed students to their limits and encouraged higher education for all of them.

Dr. Sheridan is a rare teacher that only comes around once in a lifetime. I am honored that he chose to give almost 40 years of his life to a public school in my district. He will be irreplaceable.

Jay and Sally are looking forward to spending their retirement productively by traveling and writing. The couple has two grown children, Jill and Jay Jr. Jill is an RN in Grand Junction, Colorado. Jay Jr. recently received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Parks and Recreation Management from Northern Arizona University.

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DREAM Act and in support of thousands of Florida students—and families and businesses in my community—who will benefit when we pass it.

Our great Nation is built upon the fundamental principles of liberty, equality and opportunity.

These values apply to all, except for a small group of young people who have been stuck