

bill that the House passed last December, and I look forward to enactment and implementation of much-needed improvements to the laws governing the transmission of satellite signals to American consumers.

Among this bill's many consumer-oriented regulations is Section 207, which ensures that satellite providers do not discriminate against noncommercial high definition signals. I drafted this language to protect the rights of consumers to receive federally funded programming broadcast by America's Public Broadcasting Service, PBS.

Without this provision, PBS stations cannot compete for viewers with commercial stations favored by satellite contracts. This problem is particularly troubling in the case of DISH Network, which covers 93 percent of U.S. households but only carries local PBS HD broadcasts in Alaska and Hawaii—where they are legally obligated to do so. The behavior of DISH contrasts with Direct TV, which voluntarily offers 106 PBS HD channels in its regions of operation.

With the enactment of this bill, 14 million satellite viewers will have a date certain when they will receive PBS HD signals, and PBS stations will have an even playing field when their signals are distributed via satellite providers.

My language is a simple and direct solution to a problem that undermines consumer rights and shortchanges PBS carriage:

Carriers will give their customers local noncommercial HDTV transmissions when carrying other locally broadcast HD signals.

It provides for carriage compliance for 50 percent of the stations by the end of 2010, with an extra year for the remainder, thus accelerating the FCC 2013 date.

When new service is initiated, noncommercial stations will get equal treatment.

Carriers will have one last opportunity to sign a contract prior to the date of enactment to receive a safe harbor from the hard deadlines in the bill.

I look forward to final passage of the Satellite bill, and especially the anti-discriminatory section which is so essential to America's consumers.

COMMENDING PROGRESS MADE BY ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1155, commending the progress made by anti-tuberculosis programs.

Tuberculosis is the second leading global infectious disease killer behind HIV/AIDS, claiming approximately 1.8 million lives each year. It is estimated that 1/3 of the world's population is infected with TB. This disease kills people of all races and ages around the world.

The global TB pandemic and spread of drug resistant TB presents a persistent public health threat to the U.S. The WHO reports that 5 percent of all new TB cases are drug

resistant, with estimates of up to 28 percent drug resistant reported in some parts of Russia. Of these numbers, it is estimated that only 7 percent are receiving treatment.

Although drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for TB exist, these technologies are antiquated and are increasingly inadequate for controlling the global epidemic. The most commonly used TB diagnostic in the world, sputum microscopy, is more than 100 years old and lacks sensitivity to detect TB in most HIV/AIDS patients and in children.

Drug susceptibility tests for drug resistant TB take 2–4 weeks to complete, during which time a drug resistant TB patient in a developing country may die. The TB vaccine, BCG, provides some protection to children, but has little or no efficacy in preventing pulmonary TB in adults. We will never be able to defeat TB without the introduction of new identification, treatment and prevention tools.

World TB Day also provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the significant gains made in the fight against TB and reminds us of the challenges ahead. Since 1995, 36 million people around the world have successfully been treated for TB and 9 million lives have been saved.

Less than 2 years ago, this Congress passed two historic laws to combat TB. The Comprehensive TB Elimination Act authorizes the tools to put the U.S. on the path to TB elimination and the Lantos-Hyde Act, with multilateral commitment, aims to reduce the global TB burden by half within a decade.

Both of these laws would support an increased research investment to get us the new TB diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools that we urgently need. With enactment of these 2 laws, we have the power to combat TB effectively and reduce the human misery that this disease wreaks around the world.

I want to commend Rep. ENGEL for his tremendous efforts on TB awareness and urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1155.

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Chair, I support H.R. 5116, the "America COMPETES Act of 2010."

This bill makes important investments in science, innovation and education to strengthen U.S. businesses and create jobs in the short and long term. This bill expands, strengthens and aligns STEM education programs at all levels of education. It fosters research by reauthorizing the National Science Foundation and National Institute of Science and technology labs.

Not only does this bill strengthen the U.S. competitiveness with countries abroad with re-

search and development incentives, but it also makes significant strides in building and improving our manufacturing base. In particular, this bill improves the Manufacturing Extension Program. The MEP is a network of 59 centers located in every state and Puerto Rico that provides a range of services to small and medium sized manufacturing. This program has been very successful to the manufacturing industry in my state of Utah.

Manufacturing is the largest trade in the State of Utah and 99% of the 4,000 manufacturers in the state are small businesses. This bill provides innovative technology federal loan guarantees for small and medium sized manufacturers to help them access capital to become more efficient and stay competitive.

In 2008 the federal investment of \$1 million dollars in Utah's MEP, matched by State and private sector funds, resulted in work for over 400 manufacturers, of which 94 were major projects with quantifiable impacts. Madam Chair, we need to invest in cost effective programs that help create jobs and MEP is an example of this success. I have visited many of the small businesses that have benefited from the MEP center in Utah and I believe that they are worthwhile and extremely beneficial.

HONORING SENATOR JAMES BARCIA

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Senator James Barcia, former Member of Congress, and current Senator representing Michigan's 31st State Senate District. The Bay City Branch of the NAACP will celebrate Senator Barcia's service at their Freedom Fund Banquet on May 16th.

After Jim Barcia graduated from Bay City Central High School he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 1974. During his college career he was elected student body president and began his lifelong commitment to public service. Jim was elected to three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, and five terms in the United States Congress. He is now serving his fifth term in the Michigan State Senate. In this capacity he serves as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee he sits on the Human Services Subcommittee, the Community Health Subcommittee and is the Minority Vice-Chair of the Higher Education, State Police and Military Affairs subcommittees. He is also the Associate President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Senator Barcia is married to Vickie Bartlett; he has two stepchildren and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the career and life of one of its own. Jim Barcia is a dedicated, unswerving, public servant. He is a dear friend, and I have valued his insight over the years. I congratulate him for being honored by the Bay City Branch of the NAACP for his commitment to their goals and to the community.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. HERBERT FISHER, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 86TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate New Bern, North Carolina residents Zelmyra and Herbert Fisher, Sr. on 86 years of marriage—the longest marriage of a living couple in the world.

Mrs. Zelmyra Fisher, born on December 10, 1907, and Mr. Herbert Fisher, Sr., born on June 10, 1905, have been married since 1924. In that year, Calvin Coolidge was President; New York taxis cost 10 cents per half-mile; the Teapot Dome Scandal broke; the Ford Model T was the most popular automobile; and a postage stamp cost 2 cents while bread cost 9 cents a loaf.

In 1942, Mr. Fisher built what would become the family's home in the James City neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher would raise five children in that home, and continue to live there today. The couple met in elementary school and married when he was 19 years old and she was 18 years old, and they have shared 86 blissful years.

On Valentine's Day this year, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher gave free marriage advice on Twitter. When asked to share the best marriage advice they've received, they advised couples to "respect, support and communicate with each other. Be faithful, honest and true. Love each other with all of your heart."

Mr. Fisher, a retired worker from the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, has a great passion for baseball, especially for his two favorite teams, the New York Yankees and the Atlanta Braves. Mrs. Fisher, a retired caretaker, greatly enjoys reading the Bible.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have contributed a lifetime of service to the fabric of their community through various community organizations and their respective churches, Jones Chapel A.M.E. Zion and Pilgrim Chapel Missionary Baptist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Zelmyra and Herbert Fisher, Sr. on the blessing of 86 years of marriage. They serve as a wonderful and enduring inspiration of love, family and sacrifice.

92ND ANNIVERSARY OF
AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, celebrated on May 28th.

Located in a highly political, dynamic and sensitive region between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a proud ally of the United States. An emerging democracy, Azerbaijan has taken the world stage as a member of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A strategic partner of the United States, Azerbaijan works with the U.S. on major economic and security matters. Most profoundly, Azerbaijan has been an ally for the United States in terms of sending troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. They work with area nations to secure borders and deny illegal trafficking, and are an important component of NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

Their robust oil market provides western nations the means to power our economies.

I thank the nation of Azerbaijan for their continued journey towards democracy, and for their enduring strategic partnership in the region and around the world.

The United States congratulates all Azerbaijani citizens, and Azerbaijanis around the world, on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of Azerbaijan Republic Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall 260. I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" in support of H.R. 5014, a bill that clarifies that health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs meets minimum essential coverage requirements for individual health insurance under the newly enacted health care reform law. Our Nation's veterans and their families have sacrificed so much and it is our obligation to ensure they receive the benefits and health care they so rightly deserve.

HONORING THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK FOR THE ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution honoring and expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut, as well as Federal authorities, to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square on May 1, 2010, their exceptional professionalism and investigative work following the attempted attack, and their consistent commitment to preparedness for and collective response to terrorism.

Just less than 54 hours is what it took for Federal law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, to identify, find, and apprehend Mr. Faisal Shahzad, the prime suspect for this attempted act of terror.

During the 54 hours, the New York Police Department, working with Federal and State law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others identified and began unraveling the tangled web that eventually led to Mr. Shahzad's arrest. This arrest could not have been made without the help of several people and organizations.

First, I commend the alertness and awareness of Mr. Lance Orton and Mr. Duane Jackson for "seeing something" and "saying something" to law enforcement. If it were not for these citizens, many others could have been hurt and Mr. Shahzad might not have been apprehended. This is the kind of vigilance is vital to our homeland security efforts.

Second, I want to thank the citizens of New York for helping and cooperating with law enforcement during the precautionary evacuations in the vicinity of Times Square. I also want to acknowledge New Yorkers and their resilient nature and ability to return to life as normal.

Third, I want to express my deep appreciation for the professionalism and collective response of the following law enforcement agencies: New York City Police Department, in particular Police Officer Wayne Rhatigan of Mounted Unit Troop B, the Fire Department of New York, the New York Police Department Bomb Squad, led by Lieutenant Mark Torre and other first responders, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the New York Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Bridgeport Police Department, Detective Bureau, Patrol Division, and other law enforcement agencies in Connecticut.

Finally, I want to say that without these citizens and the collaborative effort of law enforcement, we would not have the mountain of evidence we have now, including two additional unnamed suspects in custody. It is also more likely true that according to the Attorney General, the Pakistani Taliban was likely involved in planning this attempted attack. As such, we must remain vigilant against terrorism and our enemies.

Madam Speaker, while I know others may say that we just got lucky this time, I say that they are missing the point. Our post-9/11 efforts to foster greater vigilance among our citizens and a culture of preparedness and collaboration among first responders and law enforcement paid off. Further, we stayed true to our cherished constitutional principals as we initiated this wide-scale collective response to terrorism. As evidenced by what we saw on May 2, 2010, the citizens of New York and this great country are and remain committed to living their lives in the pursuit of the cherished tradition we have celebrated since our country's start and that is the pursuit of freedom.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Boy Scouts of America on their 100th anniversary and to pay tribute to the impact scouting has had on the lives of countless young men over the past century. As members of the Hiawathaland Council in Michigan's Upper Peninsula gather this weekend to celebrate the Boy Scouts' centennial, I