

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards, for consumer mortgage, loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, it is well-known by now that our economic crisis began as a foreclosure crisis. It began with homeowners across America signing up for mortgages they could not afford. And even though few of us knew it at the time, much of our financial system was riding on their ability to pay those mortgages off. When it became clear that many of them could not, the economic chain reaction affected every community in America. For a family, a foreclosure is traumatic enough—but we have also learned from this crisis that foreclosures can have wide public consequences, as well.

Of those who applied for mortgages they could not possibly pay back, some were simply irresponsible. But many others were hard-working, responsible homeowners who fell victim to predatory lending. Unfortunately, incentives in our financial system made that predatory lending possible: unscrupulous mortgage brokers were not required to provide sufficient information to homeowners, and those who then sold the mortgages had little reason to see that they were sound.

This bill goes a long way toward correcting those flaws, protecting future homeowners, and cracking down on predatory lending. It helps consumers get full information—the information they need to decide wisely on what is one of the biggest financial commitments of their lives. It prevents lenders from steering borrowers into higher-cost loans and bans yield spread premiums and other compensatory incentives that lead brokers to push those loans on borrowers. It also establishes national standards for the protection of borrowers and ensures that those who entrap consumers in predatory loans are liable for adjusting the loan's terms and paying the borrower's costs, including attorneys' fees.

Finally, this bill requires those who securitize loans to third parties to put "skin in the game" and retain interest in at least 5% of the credit risk of each loan they sell or transfer. This provision will ensure that, at every link of the chain, there is an interest in seeing that the loan is repaid and that the homeowner does not go into foreclosure.

Mr. Chair, this is a strong, carefully deliberated response to the foreclosure crisis, one that rules out many of the unscrupulous practices that harmed so many responsible families—and helped put an entire economy at

risk. I believe that if these provisions had been in place 10 years ago, the foreclosure crisis might have been averted. We cannot turn back time. But we can learn—and if we have learned anything, it is how much we need legislation like this. I urge my colleagues to support it.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF RUSSELL DUNHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of an American hero.

Russell Dunham passed away on April 6, 2009, at his home in Jerseyville, Illinois. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Lee Neal and her husband Kerry, his stepdaughter Annette Wilson and her husband Glenn, and his stepson, David Bazzell. Mr. Dunham had three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, three brothers and three sisters. Today they have my condolences, those of this House and those of a grateful nation. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wilda, two granddaughters, five brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Dunham served our nation in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, part of General Patton's Third Army during World War II. In January 1945, near Kayserberg, France, Technical Sergeant Dunham single-handedly silenced three German machine guns. Leading his platoon forward through the snow, Sergeant Dunham raced 75 yards through heavy fire to assault a well-emplaced enemy position. Attacking the first gun, Sergeant Dunham was seriously wounded by machine gun fire, but he kept up his assault, silencing first one, then another, and then the third and final enemy emplacement, using his 175 rounds from his carbine and 11 grenades.

Despite his wounds, Sergeant Dunham kept moving forward from one position to the next, risking his life above and beyond the call of duty. For his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity," Technical Sergeant Russell Dunham, earned the Medal of Honor from the grateful nation he helped to save.

After the war, Mr. Dunham spent more than three decades helping area veterans through his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He raised a family, and was an active member of the VFW and AMVETS. He will be dearly missed by his family and his community, and his service and sacrifice will continue to earn the gratitude of all Americans.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to cast my vote along with 249 other members of the House of Representatives in favor of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This legislation will protect Americans by expanding the definition of hate crimes and providing law enforcement officers with the tools they need to prosecute these heinous crimes.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act is not a cure-all and it will not stop all hate violence, but it will send the message that senseless violence is unacceptable and perpetrators will be punished. Since law enforcement sometimes lacks the personnel, resources or determination needed to properly investigate and prosecute hate crimes, this measure will give the appropriate agencies the tools they need to combat hate violence in our communities.

Under current law, the Federal Government can only investigate hate crimes motivated by the victim's race, color, religion or national origin. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act extends Federal jurisdiction to hate crimes motivated by the victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. Because such crimes are directed at an entire group of people and not just one individual, the bill provides assistance to state and local law enforcement to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

It is my hope that the Senate will quickly take up and pass this important measure. Hate motivated crimes undermine our communities and final passage of this bill has been delayed for far too long. I look forward to the day when legislation like this will no longer be needed, but until that day comes I applaud passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

TRIBUTE TO MS. TERRY TYBOROWSKI

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of Terry Tyborowski, Professional Staff for the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Unfortunately, Terry will soon be leaving the House of Representatives for a new job at the Department of Energy, but the positive impact of her work will be felt in this House, and across this nation, for many years to come.

As a member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee for over 6 years, I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have had the opportunity to work with Terry on a number of vitally important energy issues. I have seen firsthand the professionalism she brings to the job and the respect she has earned from Members, staff, and stakeholders alike. That respect derives not from her position or title, but from the hard work, honesty, reliability, and deep knowledge that are so prominent in Terry's character.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Terry is her commitment to doing that which is right for the nation and its energy future. The Energy and Water Development Subcommittee is one of the most bipartisan, or non-partisan, in Congress and the staff that work there demonstrate it daily—particularly Terry. Her opinions didn't change when David Hobson yielded the Subcommittee's gavel to Peter Visclosky and neither did her approach toward Members, staff, or issues. She remains committed to good policy and providing wise counsel while always being loyal to the Chairman for whom she worked. What more could any of us ask of the professionals who work in this body?

I have been in Congress for over 10 years and was a member of the Idaho State legislature for 14 years. I have worked with hundreds of staff members and met with thousands of policy experts over the years. Much like the rest of my colleagues, I have seen the good and bad, the loud and quiet, the effective and ineffective, and those that are honest or not. I can say with certainty that Terry is one of the finest professionals with whom I have worked and a person from whom I have learned a great deal.

Her presence here on the Hill, and in the Subcommittee, will be deeply missed by me and by all of my colleagues who work with Terry. At the same time, her expertise, fairness, and good judgment will be put to good use at the Department of Energy and those of us who represent DOE sites are looking forward to continuing our work with Terry in her new capacity.

In closing, I would simply like to thank Terry for her hard work, her tenacity, her good counsel, and most of all, her friendship.

HONORING LIEUTENANT ROGER
"CHIP" WEBSTER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Lieutenant Roger "Chip" Webster for being selected as the Bartlett Fire Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

Since joining the Bartlett Fire Department on August 16, 1998, Lieutenant Webster is known around the fire station for his leadership abilities that have become a trademark throughout his career. After being hired as a front line firefighter, Lieutenant Webster began his ascent through the ranks of the Bartlett Fire Department serving first as a Driver and then promoted to Fire Lieutenant. As a testament to his character and determination, Lieutenant Webster challenges himself to keep his personal level of training, education and certification above all recognized standards in the fire profession. With his "can do" attitude in

tact, Lieutenant Webster motivates other fire professionals to aspire to higher standards through his leadership and inspiration.

I am pleased to know that experienced public servants like Lieutenant Webster are hard at work each day keeping the citizens of Bartlett, Tennessee safe. With his broad knowledge of the various facets of the fire department, Lieutenant Webster is a valuable asset not only to the Bartlett Fire Department but to the entire Shelby County community. Lieutenant Webster has my deepest gratitude and respect as he selflessly protects our neighborhoods each day with courage under fire.

Please join me in honoring Lieutenant Chip Webster on receiving this truly well-deserved award as the Bartlett Fire Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE PASSING OF CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER BERNARD C.
WEBBER, UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD, RET.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to rise today to commemorate the passing on January 24, 2009, of Bernard C. Webber, a truly great member of the maritime community and a genuine hero of the 1952 Pendleton rescue off Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

As a teenager from Milton, Massachusetts, young Webber demonstrated his service to his country by serving with the U.S. Merchant Marines in the Pacific during World War II. On February 26, 1946, Webber enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He quickly rose through the ranks and was eventually assigned to Coast Guard Station Chatham as a First Class Boat-swains Mate.

After just six years in the service, he distinguished himself on the night of February 18, 1952, by executing the greatest small-boat rescue in Coast Guard history. Webber and his crew of three crossed the treacherous Chatham Bar and made their little 36-foot lifeboat, the CG 3600, famous. After Webber and his crew crossed the bar, they immediately faced 70-knot horizontal blinding snow and 60-foot waves en route to the floundering 503-foot tanker Pendleton, a T-2 fuel tanker that had broken in half the same night. With the windshield all but destroyed, all means of navigation—including the compass—obliterated by seas and winds, and with limited-to-no visibility, Webber nonetheless found the stern of the tanker where thirty-three were huddled in the wet and freezing night.

Webber skillfully guided his small boat powered only by a single 90-horsepower gasoline engine and rescued all but one of the crew from the stern of the stricken tanker. Moments after the last crewman was rescued, the hulk of the Pendleton rolled over and sank. Webber then skillfully navigated his grossly-overloaded boat toward safe refuge, but had to cross the Chatham bar again before reaching the safety of Chatham Harbor.

For their actions, Webber and his crew received the coveted Gold Lifesaving Medal, reserved for extreme heroism, and a place in Coast Guard history for having executed the

Greatest Small Boat Rescue of all time. In 2007, the Coast Guard acknowledged the enormity of the rescue by declaring it their third most significant rescue of all time, ranking behind only the 1980 rescue of 520 people from the Dutch liner Prinsendam off Alaska and the service's phenomenal performance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, during which 33,545 people were saved. In 2002, I had the great and distinct privilege of overseeing the re-issuance of the Gold Lifesaving Medals to Warrant Officer Webber and his crew at ceremonies honoring them in Boston and on Cape Cod.

Webber's life was not solely defined by the Pendleton rescue or his time in the Coast Guard. He served in the Coast Guard until 1966 after serving a tour in Viet Nam and at several other stations and lightships. He went on to serve as the Town of Wellfleet, Massachusetts' harbormaster; a charter boat captain out of Orleans; the Warden-head Boatman for the National Audubon Society; and part of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Maine—all told, spending more than half his life on New England waters. In his later life, he continued to make contributions to his former service's proud heritage with his summer visits to local Coast Guard stations, and by educating Coast Guard Academy cadets and others about his time in the Coast Guard.

Warrant Officer Bernard C. Webber leaves a legacy of quiet strength and dignity that is a loss to Massachusetts and the United States. As we honor his memory with a service this weekend, I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in acknowledging the passing of an American icon and Coast Guard hero.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DANIEL
TORRES HISPANIC CENTER
OF READING, PA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center of Reading and Berks County on its 40th Anniversary and to honor the non-profit organization for its commitment to serving the region's growing Latino population.

Thanks to an extremely dedicated and hard-working staff, the Center serves more than 15,000 people in the community each year and offers about 20 diverse, high-quality programs.

These programs range from providing hot meals for students after school in the Kid's Café to cultivating future community leaders through the Leadership Institute to a thriving Senior Center where older members of the community socialize, share a meal and receive other important services. All of the programs strengthen the character of the participants as well as the fabric of the community.

The Club will celebrate its 40th Anniversary on Friday, May 8th, 2009 during a dinner at the Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center of Reading and Berks County

for reaching this special milestone and in recognizing the valuable contributions of the Center's staff to improving the quality of life for the region's Latino community.

CONGRATULATING TROJANS OF
JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Trojans of James Madison High School on their first state basketball championship since 1997. These outstanding young men have come a long way this past season and have made their community in South Dallas so very proud.

Winning a state championship is something that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2008–09 Trojans forever. The Trojans and Coach Damien Mobley know what brought this state title back to Dallas—hard work. It is doing that one extra sprint, that extra drill, shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Trojans champions. Nobody outworked the Trojans and nobody could beat them in the state tournament. And nobody had a greater following or more community support than the Trojans of Madison High.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Trojan squad and on behalf of all the residents of Texas, congratulations again to the Trojans of Madison High School and Coach Damien Mobley and the entire Madison community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Trojan Pride at its finest. Go Trojans.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-
PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

This country is in the midst of a foreclosure crisis. After experiencing the effects of the first wave of foreclosures last year, we are now hearing warnings of a second, more harmful wave of subprime and predatory loan inspired foreclosures in the year ahead.

While everyone pays when a home is foreclosed upon, the people hit hardest are the elderly—who are easily deceived, the poor—who have few options, and people of color—who are often not informed fully about all their options. For decades, predatory lenders have targeted American borrowers of color with

subprime and predatory loans. In a 2005 Federal Reserve study, it was shown that African Americans were 3.2 times more likely to receive a higher cost, subprime loan than Whites. Latinos were 2.7 times more likely.

This bill targets the harmful practice of unfairly issuing subprime loans or using predatory lending to take advantage of borrowers.

While the legislation is not perfect, it does have some key provisions that are desperately needed.

Among its many useful provisions, H.R. 1728 establishes an ability-to-repay standard whereby the lender must determine that the borrower has a reasonable ability to repay the loan, present a net tangible benefit to homeowners seeking to refinance, and ensure that the loan cannot have any predatory characteristics.

H.R. 1728 also establishes a safe harbor for qualified, 30 year fixed loans. Doing so will help shift the incentives away from exotic mortgages.

And, the bill establishes protections for tenants who can be made homeless if their landlord fails to pay the mortgage. This bill gives tenants the right to remain in their homes until the end of their lease. If they do not have a lease or if the property is purchased, then tenants must be given 90-day notice to vacate.

These are important and necessary protections for homeowners and renters. I encourage my colleagues to join me today in voting for H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-
PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chair, across the country hundreds of thousands of hard-working families have fallen victim to predatory lending. Poor and minority communities have been targeted. Today, we are seeing the results. The foreclosure rate is the highest in a quarter century, and many others are burdened by debt.

That's why H.R. 1728 is needed. It enacts simple reforms that will level the playing field for consumers. The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act will help the nation move toward recovery. It will give consumers the confidence to purchase a new home by ensuring predatory lending practices become a thing of the past. The bill would make it illegal for lenders to make loans that homeowners cannot reasonably be expected to repay.

It not only sets guidelines for fair lending, but takes strides to empower the borrower. For years, I have said that one of the most effective ways to stop predatory lending is to give consumers knowledge. This legislation in-

cludes my initiative to provide increased access and information on the benefits of home inspections—and give homebuyers a leg up when dealing with lenders.

Last, but not least, when we think of homes going into foreclosure, we cannot forget those who live in apartment buildings. In New York, as in many urban areas, more than half of our city rents. And today, as many as 90,000 New Yorkers reside in buildings with debts too high to maintain. These families, at no fault of their own, could be out on the street if their buildings go into foreclosure.

The amendment I have proposed would protect tenants and keep multifamily buildings out of foreclosure. It establishes a new program to stabilize troubled buildings by refinancing them or facilitating their transfer to new responsible owners.

I urge you to protect renters, to protect homeowners, and to put a stop to the abusive lending practices that have hurt so many American families. I urge a "yes" vote.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-
PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1728, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

Our nation currently has the highest home foreclosure rate in a quarter century. Millions of families are facing the frightening prospect of foreclosure. Not only do these foreclosures cause great harm to individual families, but they result in declining property values for whole communities and huge disruptions in the overall housing market. This housing crisis has rippled through our economy and led to the economic recession in which we find ourselves. H.R. 1728 makes the necessary reforms to prohibit many of the ill-advised practices that led to the housing crisis.

H.R. 1728 includes several provisions to end abusive or predatory lending. This bill ends compensation structures that incentivize mortgage originators to steer borrowers into more costly loans. It also calls for increased disclosure so that consumers know if loan originators are benefiting at their expense. This bill creates uniform standards to prevent mortgage abuse. In order to meet these new standards, consumers would have to have a "reasonable ability to repay." In addition, loan refinances would have to provide some "net tangible benefit" to the consumer. Meeting these new guidelines will help erase some of the riskier loans that have damaged our housing sector. Any lender that violates these standards would be liable for damages including attorney's fees. In addition, Federal financial regulators would also get new authority to address abusive mortgage practices by issuing joint regulations. Finally, H.R. 1728 protects tenants by providing them protections

and increased notification if the house they rent falls into foreclosure.

Exotic derivatives markets based on mortgages were a primary contributor to our current economic downturn. This bill requires creditors retain at least five percent of the credit risk of each loan they transfer, or sell to a third party. Similarly, H.R. 1728 would ensure that the secondary market also comply with these new standards as they buy and trade these loans as securities. Sharing risk is an important part of ensuring safety in the marketplace.

These reforms will help us rebuild our economy now, and help us avoid future mistakes like those that contributed to our current economic crisis. I support the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 1728 The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2009. This bill will finally put a stop to the abusive and predatory lending practices that have contributed to our nation's highest home foreclosure rate in 25 years. In recent years, some homeowners were deceived and some homeowners received more expensive loans than they could afford. In response, this bill would ensure that mortgage lenders make loans that benefit the consumer—and would bar lenders from steering borrowers into higher cost loans. Moreover, it will prohibit lenders from offering “reasonable sounding mortgages,” only to hide huge fees, rising interest rates and junk insurance in the fine print. No longer will lenders be able to “get rich” at the borrower's expense. The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act prescribes a simple standard for all home loans: institutions must ensure that borrowers can repay the loans they are sold, before they sign on the dotted line. Under this measure, lenders and the secondary mortgage market who don't comply with these standards would be held liable by consumers for rescission of the loan and the consumer's costs for rescission, including attorney's fees. This would encourage the market to move back toward making fixed-rate, fully documented loans.

Although increased regulation of the lending market is crucial to the resurgence of our housing market and economy—the main reason why I stand today is because of this bill promises to bridge the financial information gap. For many people, especially in my district of Central Brooklyn, homeownership allows them to live independently and in relative comfort, while slowly accruing wealth simply by

staying in one place. But predatory lending and mortgage fraud undermines a low-income homeowner's grasp on economic security, leaving the most vulnerable of our society with insurmountable debt. Thereby, continuing the cycle of poverty.

In the case of the 11th Congressional District, most foreclosure victims live in low and moderate income working class communities, where conventional financial services are not available. Corrupt lenders prey on these people, offering loans they know the borrower can't afford. Good lending advice should always be available to all. The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to provide legal assistance to low income homeowners and tenants concerning home ownership preservation, foreclosure prevention, and tenancy associated with home foreclosure. These grants would be given out to qualifying state and local governments and nonprofit organizations offering homeownership or rental counseling. This would help level the playing field for those most susceptible to the corrupt dealings of predatory lenders.

Addressing the mortgage foreclosure crisis is one of my top priorities. This is why, the day after I was sworn into office, this year, I proudly voted for the Systematic Foreclosure Prevention Act which directed the FDIC to create a program that would provide incentives to loan servicers for mortgage medication. Additionally, earlier this year—I introduced my own legislation, H.R. 1848, the Foreclosure Prevention Act—that authorizes an appropriation of \$100 million dollars to Neighbor Works America for foreclosure mitigation activities and mortgage counseling. I am very pleased that the principals of my bill were adopted into the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

Lastly, I am proud that we are doing what must be done to rebuild our economy in a way that is fair and consistent with our values. Again, I stand in strong support of H.R. 1728, and pledge to continue my fight for common sense reform and consumer protections.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I offer my strong support for the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

Abusive and predatory lending practices have wreaked havoc upon the American economy, bringing it to its worst state since the Great Depression. What started as a subprime mortgage crisis has ballooned to affect everyone. Millions of families have lost their homes or face the prospect of foreclosure, and busi-

nesses large and small are laying-off employees in record numbers. Unemployment figures have risen to numbers unseen in decades.

Although Congress has made great strides to stabilize and rejuvenate the economy, we must regulate lenders so that a crisis like this will never happen again. We must protect innocent home buyers from unscrupulous mortgage lenders eager to make a quick buck. Mortgage lenders should not steer borrowers into higher cost loans just to increase their commissions. Mortgage institutions should ensure that borrowers can repay the loans they are sold. Creditors should retain an economic interest in a portion of the loans they sell, which would help them to be more responsible about initiating loans.

Passing the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act is the right thing to do. The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act will outlaw many of the egregious lending practices that have multiplied in recent years and spark a return to more responsible lending methods.

These much-needed changes are long overdue and will protect vulnerable home buyers. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1728, the “Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.” Risky lending practices, combined with the consequent securitization of mortgages, ultimately brought a violent end to the housing bubble and left the United States with a constricted credit market not seen in generations. In short, simple avarice and an inexcusable disregard for the long-term health of the mortgage market gave rise to the economic crisis in which this Nation presently finds itself mired.

Just as our predecessors did in the wake of the Great Depression, we, too, must enact laws to ensure transparency in our economy and prevent the recurrence of practices that have left millions of Americans facing foreclosure. H.R. 1728 is but one of several essential means by which to achieve that end. This legislation, by requiring the licensing and registration of mortgage originators and proof of a borrower's ability to repay a home loan, will serve to impede—and hopefully altogether prevent—the irresponsible home lending practices that have in great part crippled the economy of my home state of Michigan, which, with one foreclosed home for every 136, has the sixth-highest foreclosure rate in the nation.

Although politically expedient to focus our ire over the current economic crisis on insalubrious actors in the financial services sector and making them the target of punitive legislation, we must not lose sight of the necessity

of providing consumers adequate protection from predatory lenders. H.R. 1728 recognizes this by prohibiting any compensation structure that could cause a loan originator to steer applicants toward costlier mortgages, providing a grace period for tenants before eviction from their homes, and creating an Office of Housing Counseling within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to educate consumers about what some might term as the Byzantine inner-workings of the housing market.

I am proud to support passage of this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Mr. HELLER. Mr. Chair, I support and would have voted for H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Fraud and Anti-Predatory Lending Act. Considering the serious situation in Nevada related to housing issues, I support and would have voted for this bill to reform the mortgage and housing industry. H.R. 1728 reforms federal laws related to mortgage loan providers, those that buy or sell mortgages on the secondary securities markets, as well as appraisers. This bill will help reduce predatory lending practices and restrict lenders from making loans available to consumers that cannot afford them.

In the last Congress, I supported and voted for a similar bill, H.R. 3915, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act of 2007. This bill passed the House by a vote of 291–127, on November 15, 2007, but was never considered by the Senate. Though this new version of the bill in the 111th Congress has a number of differences, and is not a perfect piece of legislation, I still would have voted in support of the legislation. I sincerely hope that some of the changes that need to be made will be achieved by the Senate or in a conference committee.

The economic downturn and housing situation in Nevada is dire. According to one leading foreclosure tracking service, foreclosures in Nevada were up 108% from February 2008 to February 2009. Nevada is the number one state, per capita, in foreclosures. Housing inventory is at an all-time high and construction and new starts are at a near standstill in both northern and southern Nevada. Clark County is one of the hardest hit counties in the nation.

Reforming mortgage fraud and predatory lending practices is critical to restoring confidence in the nation's housing market, helping get the economy back on track, and most importantly, helping keep Nevada families in their homes.

NATO SUMMIT

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, from April 2–9, 2009, in my capacity as President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA), I spoke at the 60th Anniversary Summit of NATO in Strasbourg/Kehl; chaired the NATO PA Standing Committee meeting and conducted bilateral meetings in Vilnius, Lithuania; traveled to Kiev, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia on NATO PA Presidential visits; and addressed the EAPC Ambassadors in Brussels, Belgium. The Honorable JO ANN EMERSON (R-MO), who chairs the NATO PA's Civil Dimension of Security Committee and serves on the Standing Committee of the NATO PA, and NATO PA Secretary General David Hobbs, joined and worked with me to make this a successful trip.

In the NATO PA, parliamentarians from NATO member and partner states gather to discuss NATO issues and as elected officials, have a close working relationship with the Alliance. In addition to my role as the Assembly's President, I chair the U.S. delegation to the NATO PA. The U.S. delegation is always bipartisan, actively and regularly participates in the NATO PA sessions, and several of our delegates hold elected offices within the Assembly. The NATO PA meetings afford an opportunity to sound out parliamentarians from allied states on public opinion, defense and foreign policy, and trends in strategic thinking. These meetings also allow us to come to know members of parliaments who play important roles in shaping the security agenda that their governments debate at NATO headquarters. These relationships can last a lifetime and enhance mutual understanding of issues in the different member countries.

NATO SUMMIT IN STRASBOURG/KEHL

The NATO Summit was held April 3–4 in Strasbourg/Kehl, which is situated on the German-French border. There is great symbolism in the Alliance's 60th Anniversary being celebrated on this border, given what has transpired over the last century in those two countries which drew the United States into both World War I and World War II.

On behalf of the alliance parliamentarians, I addressed the Heads of State and Government at the NAC (North Atlantic Council), the Alliance's decision-making body. I outlined three serious challenges facing NATO at this time in its 60th year which we, as parliamentarians, believe are critical to the Alliance: the mission in Afghanistan, our relationship with Russia, and the need for a new Strategic Concept.

At the beginning of the NAC, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer welcomed Albania and Croatia as new members of the Alliance. He noted that their membership comes as the result of long years of hard work and that both countries have shown dedication and drive in completing the necessary reforms of their governing structures and their militaries. Since the United States is the depository country of the Washington Treaty, President Obama handed over copies of the Washington Treaty to the Presidents of Albania and Croatia, signifying the two countries' admission to the Alliance. Additionally,

the 28 NATO Heads of State and Government unanimously agreed to appoint Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as NATO's next Secretary General. He will officially take up his duties on August 1 of this year, when the term of Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer expires after over five years of leading the Alliance.

For the first time, the NATO PA was mentioned in the NATO Summit Declaration. In paragraph 17 it states: "We welcome the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in promoting the Alliance's principles and values."

LITHUANIA

On April 5 in Vilnius, I chaired the Standing Committee meeting of the NATO PA. The Standing Committee consists of the heads of the Member delegations, chairs of the five NATO PA Committees, and the Bureau of the Assembly. In a productive session, we approved Bulgarian MP Assen Yordanov Agov as the Assembly's new Vice President. Mr. Agov will replace outgoing NATO PA Vice President Rasa Jukneviene, who vacated the post to serve as Lithuania's Defense Minister. Among other agenda items, the Committee discussed relations with the Russian delegation to the NATO PA, increasing the profile of our relationship with Georgia, relations with Belarus, cost cutting measures for NATO PA meetings in light of the current economic climate, and the Assembly's contribution to a future NATO Strategic Concept. I took the opportunity of the Standing Committee forum to emphasize my presidency theme of teamwork and a "Team NATO" concept, and that keeping a critical mass of public support to maintain the Afghanistan mission is essential. 2009 is a critical year for the Alliance in Afghanistan, and I stressed a sense of urgency with this timeline.

Also in Vilnius, Ms. Emerson and I attended a working dinner hosted by the Speaker of the Seimas (Lithuania's Parliament), Arunas Valinkas. We were joined by Seimas Members Juozas Olekas and Emanuelis Zingeris and the Director of the Seimas's International Relations Department, Sigita Trainauskiene. Our Ambassador to Lithuania, John Cloud, also participated. We thanked the Lithuanians for their contributions in Afghanistan, highlighting that their per capita contribution to the effort is impressive. In turn, the MP's thanked the U.S. for its support throughout the Soviet occupation and its role in regional NATO initiatives such as Baltic Air Policing. We discussed energy issues, mainly Lithuania's concern regarding the requirement to close their nuclear power plant by the end of this year (an EU membership condition they agreed to eight years ago). We encouraged them to amend Lithuania's residency law which currently requires Americans (and other non-EU nationals) who are working in Lithuania to live in the country for two years before their family members can receive residency permits to join them. They reassured us it would be resolved by this summer. We also encouraged them to address Jewish property restitution issues.

We enjoyed a warm reception from our Lithuanian counterparts and the visit underscored the strong working relationship between our two countries. This year marks five years of NATO Membership for Lithuania. The bilateral visit and the NATO PA meetings, particularly on the heels of the NATO Summit, received positive attention from the local media.

UKRAINE AND GEORGIA

Immediately following our participation in the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit and the Assembly's Standing Committee meeting in Vilnius, the delegation traveled to Ukraine and Georgia on April 6–7. The purpose of the visits was to underline the Assembly's continuing commitment to Ukraine and Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration and to obtain firsthand views on progress in the reform process. The two governments provided an opportunity to discuss a variety of security-related topics ranging from Afghanistan to the Russian occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. I emphasized to the Ukrainians and Georgians that this being my first official trip as NATO PA President was meant to send a signal of their importance to NATO and to Europe. We thanked Georgia and Ukraine for their contribution to NATO activities, encouraged them to continue pursuing NATO membership, and reassured them that we are here to help them achieve this goal.

UKRAINE

In Kiev, we were greeted by our Ambassador to Ukraine, William Taylor, and hosted by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament). We met with MP's from BYuT (Block of Yulia Tymoshenko): Andriy Shkil (Head of Ukrainian delegation to the NATO PA), Ostap Semyrak, and Vadym Korotuk; Party of the Regions: Hryhoryi Iliashov; Our Ukraine: Ivan Zaiats, Yuriy Samoilenko, and Borys Tarasuk (Chairman of the Committee on European Integration). We also met with Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn, Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov, had a particularly informative briefing from Deputy Defense Minister Ivanschenko, and spent over an hour in a private meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko. We did not meet with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as other events required her to cancel all of her meetings that day. While at the Rada, we observed a session of Parliament with Hans-Gert Pottering, President of the European Parliament.

Ukraine's political leaders readily acknowledged the harm caused by instability in parliamentary coalitions and friction between governmental factions. Most agree that the constitution should be amended to reduce the scope for political instability, and a constitutional commission is likely to be established to develop possible solutions. The need for stability has recently been underlined by the financial crisis which has hit Ukraine particularly hard. The various factions do seem to be working together to ensure the delivery of IMF support and to adopt an economic program.

President Yushchenko's popularity ratings are low. On April 1, the Rada voted to hold presidential elections on October 25, much earlier than the anticipated January 2010 date, which would mark the end of Yushchenko's five year mandate.

Ukraine is vigorously striving for NATO membership. Indeed, Ukraine's intention to join NATO was declared in 2002 and subsequently written into national legislation when the current main opposition party was in power.

Regarding the outcome of NATO's Strasbourg/Kehl Summit, Ukraine welcomed the reiteration of NATO's "Bucharest message"—that NATO's door remains open, and that Ukraine and Georgia will become members of NATO. The Annual National Program—a framework intended to help Ukraine plan and continue to implement political, eco-

conomic, defense and security sector reforms is being prepared. The view was expressed that the Annual National Program is seen as a Membership Action Plan in all but name.

Ukraine is the only NATO partner participating in all NATO-led operations. The current financial crisis is necessitating a review of commitments and transformation efforts, and some reductions in the scale of contributions to operations might have to take place. However, it was not felt that Ukraine would withdraw from any operations and strenuous efforts are being made to sustain those particular commitments. The Ukrainian officials explained that even Ukraine's peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan is a delicate issue, as 15,000 Ukrainians were killed in the Soviet's Afghanistan campaign, and those wounds still have not healed.

Public support for NATO membership remains relatively low but it is rising, particularly among the younger population. The government believes that the more is known about NATO, the more support should increase. Over the past decade, it has been important that candidate state governments take the lead in persuading public opinion of the value of NATO membership. Representative Emerson offered that instead of using terms such as "NATO", "MAP", etc., government officials could relate and appeal to the people on a more direct level by talking about personal security and how that affects them.

Ukraine's aspirations to NATO membership is but one source of friction with its neighbor, Russia. Others include energy, the expiration in 2017 of the agreement under which Russia leases naval bases in the Crimea for its Black Sea Fleet, and even the demarcation of borders.

It was stressed that Ukraine does not seek to antagonize Russia, but only to pursue its own independent course. It was pointed out that Russia has itself a more extensive list of areas of cooperation with NATO than has Ukraine, and that the NATO PA could seek to help the Ukrainian public realize that Russia is actually very actively cooperating with NATO on certain key issues. The Ukrainians pointed out that there are six working groups in Ukraine-NATO and 19 working groups in Russia-NATO.

We took the opportunity in the meetings in Kiev to thank Ukrainian governmental and parliamentary representatives for their country's contributions to NATO's operations, and to underline the Assembly's support for Ukraine's process of Euro-Atlantic integration. We underlined the strong relationship between the Assembly and the delegation from the Verkhovna Rada, and I reiterated the sentiments I expressed at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit regarding NATO enlargement: that this process enhances Euro-Atlantic security, threatens no one, and is not subject to a veto by any other country.

GEORGIA

In Georgia, we were greeted by our Ambassador, John Tefft, and hosted by the Georgian Parliament. We met with the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament David Bakradze; met with the official opposition (Levan Vepkhvadze, Gia Tortladze of Powerful Georgia Party, Nikolz Laliashvili of the Christian Democratic Party, and Rati Maisuradze of the Christian Democratic Party); had lunch with the Georgian delegation to the NATO PA headed by Giorgi Kandelaki; met with the Min-

ister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Giorgi Baramidze (former head of the Georgian NATO PA delegation); had a very informative discussion with Prime Minister Nike Gilauri; met with President Mikheil Saakashvili; attended a dinner hosted by Speaker Bakradze which members of the opposition were invited to and attended; and lastly, met with Nino Burjanadze of the radical opposition (former Speaker of Parliament and driving force behind the April 9 protests). Georgia is seeking to make considerable progress with internal reform. For instance, it is looking at various forms of constitutional reform to strengthen parliament and to improve election practices. It is pursuing the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the OSCE, and seeking to build public trust in the system. It is noteworthy that although opposition figures within Parliament feel that democratic processes could be improved, they nevertheless believe that the overall situation is good.

Georgia must continue to reform its economy, build a free press, and establish an independent judiciary.

Despite the financial crisis, Georgia still expects modest economic growth in 2009. It has a balanced budget and a stable economy with relatively low inflation. The economy is attracting a high level of foreign investment. The economy is also diversified in terms of products and markets, so Georgia is not dependent on any particular geographical region or any single commodity. Furthermore, Georgia had been fortunate in not having substantially de-regulated the banking sector.

Representative EMERSON was impressed with Georgia's agricultural development and the positive role agriculture can continue to play in Georgia's economic future.

There is a very broad political consensus on joining NATO. This view was expressed by both government and opposition representatives. The government contends that over 70 percent of the population and nearly all of the political parties support NATO integration.

Georgia is developing its Annual National Program, and in that context it was stated that "the 'Membership Action Plan' route was not the only road to NATO membership."

NATO—and especially United States—support is seen as crucial to Georgia. Governmental and parliamentary representatives expressed their gratitude for the Assembly's particularly strong support following the events of August last year. Russia's continuing occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia was unacceptable, as was its recognition of the two regions' independence. Russia remains in violation of the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement. There has, for instance, been no draw down of Russian forces in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. On the contrary, new military facilities are under construction, tens of thousands of people remain displaced (in addition to the hundreds of thousands displaced in the 1990s), and international monitors can still not cross the administrative boundaries. Georgian officials believe that a continuing international presence remains vital.

Russia has made no secret of its opposition to Georgian membership in the Alliance and its desire to see "regime change" in Georgia. There is a widespread belief that tensions with Russia will persist until Georgia becomes a

member of the Alliance. Russia's goal in fermenting such tension, Georgian officials contend, is simply to present an obstacle to Georgia's membership.

Even so, Georgian officials said they have no desire to see Russia isolated from the international community. Russia, NATO and NATO aspirants have common interests in some areas, in their view.

The European Union's Monitoring Mission (EUMM) provided us with a detailed briefing.

EUMM's mandate is to monitor the implementation of the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement, in particular the withdrawal of Russian and Georgian armed forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. It is also tasked to contribute to the stabilization and normalization of the situation in the areas affected by the war, to monitor the deployment of Georgian police forces, and to observe compliance with human rights and rule of law. The Mission covers three functional areas: Internally Displaced People (IDP)/Humanitarian, Police/Justice/Human Rights, and Military.

Regarding Georgian IDPs, there are more than 230,000 IDPs from conflicts in the 1990s, and a further 130,000 from the war in August 2008. Of that latter category, some 100,000 have been able to return to their homes since Russian forces have pulled back—with some important exceptions—to within the administrative boundary lines of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The EUMM has been able to provide substantial assistance in collective data on IDPs. On the Police/Justice/Human Rights part of the mission, there is good cooperation with the Georgian authorities which has, for instance, helped to clarify the distinctions between Georgian police and armed forces. The EUMM's work is limited, however because it cannot obtain access to South Ossetia or Abkhazia. In the military area, Georgia has agreed to limits on the numbers and nature of weapons within a zone around the administrative boundary lines. This is seen as a substantial confidence-building measure.

Although much has been achieved, several key challenges remain. These include the continuing presence of Russian forces at Perevi and Akhgori, the lack of clear dialogue with Russian, South Ossetian, and Abkhazian representatives, unsolved shootings, persistent acts of provocation, the reinforcement of defensive positions on either side of the administrative boundary lines, and the EUMM's lack of access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Representative EMERSON chairs the NATO PA's Civil Dimension of Security Committee and is considering taking her committee to the border area, possibly sometime next year.

Our visit took place two days before demonstrations were planned outside the Georgian Parliament (for April 9). The purpose of the demonstrations was to demand the removal from office of Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili. Naturally, the demonstrations were the subject of considerable discussion with government leaders, parliamentary supporters, and opposition representatives from within and outside the parliament.

Government and parliamentary representatives upheld the right to demonstrate and protest, but there was concern that protests might become violent. Officials also shared concern about how such demonstrations would be perceived internationally. Some opposition figures in parliament expressed fear that the demonstrations might get out of hand. They ar-

gued that if the demonstrations concerned the pace or nature of certain reforms, this could be the basis for legitimate protest.

In the various discussions on this matter, we urged restraint by all parties. Many observers had felt that the response to demonstrations in 2007 had been "heavy handed," and this too had harmed Georgia's reputation. It is in Georgia's national interest that the demonstrations remain peaceful. We encouraged Georgian officials to allow the protests to happen, and indeed, there was no violence during the demonstrations, due in large part to the appropriate way the government handled the demonstrations, which has earned them goodwill internationally.

Representative EMERSON and I spoke at length with the Georgians (and the Ukrainians) about the importance of peaceful transitions of power, peaceful reform, the rule of law, and functional bipartisan relations being essential to a stable country and democracy. We reassured them that opposition is to be expected in a democracy, that the majority has an obligation to take into account the ideas of the minority in deliberations, and that the minority in turn has an obligation to participate in a responsible way and accept that whoever has the majority at a given time, will end up making most of the decisions. We also stressed the importance of the opposition marginalizing the extreme opposition factions. Representative EMERSON and I shared our experiences of being in both the minority and the majority. We also relayed that, although members of opposite parties, we are able to effectively work together, especially when it comes to important issues.

We also applauded Georgia's progress in the implementation of reforms, and reiterated the Assembly's support for that process. Representative EMERSON commended the younger generation for stepping up and taking responsibility for leadership and the future course of their country. We also welcomed the government's decision to increase its force commitment to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

We underlined that—as I stated in my speech at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit—NATO enlargement threatens no one. Allied nations make good neighbors, and new members promote regional and Euro-Atlantic stability—ends that serve everyone's interests—and Russia has no veto over the sovereign decisions of its neighbors.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly does not wish to interfere in Georgia's internal affairs, nor provide support for any particular party or faction. It supports Georgia, the Georgian people, and Georgia's right to determine its own future.

BELGIUM

On April 8 in Brussels at NATO Headquarters, I addressed the EAPC (Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) Ambassadors. The meeting was chaired by NATO Deputy Secretary General Claudio Bisogniero. The EAPC brings together 50 NATO Partnership countries (28 NATO countries and 22 Partner countries) for dialogue on political and security-related issues, and provides the overall political framework for NATO's cooperation with Partner countries and the bilateral relationships between NATO and individual Partner countries with the Partnership for Peace Program.

I delivered an overview of the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit and several Partners gave their

thoughts on the Summit conclusion, including Russia and Georgia.

There was a vigorous discussion among the Russian, Moldovan, and Romanian ambassadors at the EAPC meeting about the uneasy political situation in Moldova.

My speech to the EAPC ambassadors mentioned the work of the NATO PA and its role in building NATO partnerships. I noted Jan Peterson's (of Norway's NATO PA delegation) work on the Strategic Concept and welcomed suggestions from NATO PA associate members.

The brief was well received around the table and several Allies and Partners were very complimentary of the work done by the NATO PA and the NATO PA Secretariat staff in Brussels, led by David Hobbs.

Immediately following the EAPC meeting, we (joined by the Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission to NATO, Walter Andrusyszyn) met with Russian Ambassador to NATO Dmitry Rogozin, per Rogozin's request. Rogozin offered that parliamentary diplomacy through the auspices of the NATO PA could help alleviate the deep mistrust in Russia regarding engagement with the Alliance, and advocated an ambitious set of meetings. Noting that he is a former parliamentarian, Rogozin said he is willing to use his contacts in the Russian Duma to encourage this. We agreed that parliamentary diplomacy and the NATO PA have a positive role to play in the NATO-Russia context, but warned that practical constraints would make the scale of Rogozin's proposals difficult to implement. We also emphasized that enhanced engagement with Russia would require a more constructive approach than had been seen in the past from Russian participants in NATO PA events; that engagement needs to be a two-way street, but that nevertheless we would discuss Russia with Administration officials upon our return to Washington.

Raising Afghanistan, Rogozin noted that Moscow intended to continue to allow the transit of non-lethal goods bound for NATO forces in Afghanistan. He also said he expects resistance from the Taliban to increase in response to the U.S. troop increase in Afghanistan. Rogozin also offered that the crisis in NATO-Russian relations over the August 2008 Russia-Georgia war could turn out to be useful. Noting that the decisions taken at the April 3–4 Summit provided a way ahead on resumption of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), Rogozin said he hopes to get the relationship to a qualitatively new level.

We reiterated our hope that we can have open dialogue with the Russians on the issues and threats we have in common, such as nuclear proliferation and radical fundamentalism, and that our differences will not preclude us from having discussions on these common interests.

This was a very tightly choreographed trip, which depended on exact timing and movement in order to achieve the results that it did; therefore, the support of the United States military was again essential to its successful planning and execution. Our aircrew was from F Company, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany. We could not have made our intense schedule work without their professional efforts and dedication to duty. Also, I must mention our military escort, Col. Tom Shubert, USAF (Ret.). He was the facilitator in the various air movements and air space clearance. His work was extraordinary.

HONORING PROFESSOR ED
DEPETERS OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Ed DePeters, the 2009 recipient of the University of California, Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. This \$40,000 prize, first awarded in 1987, is believed to be the largest undergraduate teaching award in the nation. The prize is awarded to scholars who are successful not only in their research, but convey their excitement and love of scholarship to their students.

Professor DePeters, or “Dr. D” as students call him, is an animal scientist and expert in dairy cow nutrition, but his hallmark at UC Davis is imparting his knowledge and passion for these subjects to his students.

Growing up on a farm in upstate New York, Professor DePeters developed an interest in animal agriculture that led him to Cornell University for a bachelor’s degree in animal science. He went on to Penn State for a master’s degree in dairy science, but instead of returning home as he had planned, he continued his studies and earned his doctoral degree in dairy science, which led him to a faculty position at UC Davis.

Professor DePeters’ research focuses on how the composition of milk, particularly the fatty-acid content, can be modified by changes in the cow’s diet, and how agricultural byproducts such as almond hulls and cottonseed can be converted into nutritious feeds. His research has resulted in more than 120 scientific publications and is widely influential in the industry.

Notwithstanding his research achievements, Professor DePeters’ energy and personal concern have stood out in the minds of his students. Their reviews are peppered with comments like “very enthusiastic” . . . “really knows his material” . . . “very approachable” . . . “incredible teacher” . . . “funny and gifted” . . . “the most motivated and dedicated teacher” . . . “a great guy and awesome professor” . . . “I love this class; it’s top priority.” He teaches a lower-division course in livestock production and upper-division courses in dairy cattle production and animal feeds and nutrition.

Professor DePeters makes a point of learning students’ names, and he takes pictures of each student and carries the pictures around with him until he has learned them all.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time for us to acknowledge and thank Professor Ed DePeters for his years of exemplary work as a scholar and educator, and to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved award. His commitment to inspiring and educating students has been unwavering, and he deserves our congratulations.

CELEBRATING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on the 61st anniversary of its founding on May 14, 1948.

Israel is a true friend to the United States. For the past 61 years, Israel and the United States have been linked on many levels. We have sustained a strong partnership, sharing not only a commitment to peace and security in the Middle East, but also common democratic ideals and principles.

Israel is a nation founded by people seeking refuge from religious persecution. It has developed into a thriving democracy proud of its achievements, building a strong and vibrant society committed to the rule of law and sustaining a robust economy.

While Israelis continue to contribute a great deal to society, the state of Israel exists in a dangerous neighborhood. It has weathered continued attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah and faces an increasing threat from Iran. These are real obstacles to peace that threaten the safety of Israeli men, women, and children, and affect the stability of the region. Despite these challenges, Israel still works toward peace and security with its neighbors.

Israel has taken meaningful, unilateral steps toward this end. It has fostered an amicable, working relationship with Egypt and Jordan, removed troops from Gaza and Lebanon, and has participated in open negotiations with the Palestinian government to work toward a productive peace agreement for both sides. While the United States will remain an active player in the Middle East peace process, true peace can only be achieved through a pragmatic and faithful approach constructed by regional authorities.

Madam Speaker, Israel wants peace, and the United States must remain committed to helping its friend achieve this goal. I stand here today to affirm my commitment to the nation of Israel and to congratulate our friend and partner on its 61st anniversary.

**FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND
RECOVERY ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. This legislation provides the Department of Justice with the tools it needs to fight fraud in the use of funds under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. S.386 has a number of provisions that seek to protect Americans by ensuring the agencies tasked with investigating and prosecuting mortgage and financial fraud have the funding and personnel they need to do so. I am also pleased the House recognizes the need for increased accountability for mortgage lending

businesses not directly regulated or insured by the Federal Government, an industry responsible for nearly half the residential mortgage market before the housing crash.

I am more hesitant to support other provisions of S. 386. This bill includes an amendment to establish a special commission to investigate the causes of the current financial crisis. I believe that any such commission should be comprised of members of this body, who are furthermore from the committees of jurisdiction relevant to the matter. I have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 345, to do precisely that. It is my long-held belief that the Congress should, contrary to the prevailing fashion of the times, conduct its own oversight work. For the simple fact that members of this body will ultimately write the legislation to reimpose a strict regulatory framework upon the financial services industry, they should be personally involved in vigorous efforts to expose the many and sundry causes of this country’s recent economic collapse. In brief, well-informed members of Congress write more effective legislation.

With this in mind, I voice my support for aggressive oversight of the financial services industry, but respectfully object to the manner in which S. 386, as amended, mandates it be performed.

**CONGRATULATING EAGLES OF
DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Eagles of DeSoto High School on their victory over neighboring Cedar Hill High School. This “Battle of Belt Line” has been played many times over the years, but this was the first time the state title was on the line. With the Eagles win, DeSoto can now claim their second state basketball championship. These outstanding young men have come a long way this past season and have made their community in Dallas County so very proud.

Winning a state championship is something that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2008–09 Eagles forever. The Eagles and Coach Chris Dyer know what brought this state title back to DeSoto—hard work. It is doing that one extra sprint, that extra drill, shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Eagles champions. Nobody outworked the Eagles and nobody could beat them in the state tournament. And nobody had a greater following or more community support than the Eagles of DeSoto High.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Eagles squad and on behalf of all the residents of Texas, congratulations again to the Eagles of DeSoto High School and Coach Chris Dyer and the entire DeSoto community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Eagles Pride at its finest. Go Eagles!

HONORING THE ST. CLOUD AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor three people and companies that embody both the spirit of American entrepreneurship and the heart of American public service: John W. McDowall, owner of the McDowall Company, The Mahowald Insurance Agency, and Byron Bjorklund, owner of Short Stop Custom Catering. Today, they will be honored by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding success and positive contributions to the St. Cloud community.

I want to congratulate John W. McDowall, this year's recipient of the Chamber's Entrepreneurial Success Award. Mr. McDowall joined the family business after graduating high school in 1973 and worked his way up the ladder until being named President in 1999. Today, this construction company employs 130 individuals and continues to earn an impressive profit despite unexpected price increases and a sluggish economy. In addition to running a successful business, Mr. McDowall contributes to the community through his involvement on numerous boards, including Bremer, St. Cloud Technical College, St. Cloud Opportunities, and the Boys and Girls Club.

I also want to recognize The Mahowald Insurance Agency for earning the Chamber's Mark of Excellence Award. The family-owned business, which has been passed to four generations, began in 1930 when Anthony Mahowald started going door to door every week collecting premiums for life insurance policies he sold. When Tony's son, Robert Mahowald, took over in 1956, he expanded the agency beyond personal insurance coverage. The Mahowald Insurance Agency serves people, businesses, and even the schools of the St. Cloud area—and hopefully for many generations to come.

Last but not least, I want to recognize Byron Bjorklund, owner of the Short Stop Custom Catering and the 2009 St. Cloud Area Small Business Person on the Year. Beginning his career at the young age of 11, Mr. Bjorklund started in the fast food industry and in 1995, his business evolved into a catering service. He has experienced a nearly 25 percent growth by establishing solid relationships with a variety of businesses and organizations. And thanks to his entrepreneurship, more than 100 people have full-or part-time employment.

Madam Speaker, I applaud these outstanding individuals and businesses who have worked hard to achieve the American dream of free enterprise and serve our community by ensuring small businesses remain the job engine of America.

HONORING REVEREND DR. LEROY
SHELTON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I arise today and pay tribute to the life of Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton. Dr. Shelton passed away suddenly on Monday, May 4th. The Flint community has lost one of its greatest leaders and I have lost a dear friend. His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th at Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Flint.

Dr. Shelton became the pastor of Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in 1987. During this time the congregation grew in numbers and strength. A committed member of Concerned Pastors for Social Change, he was a vocal activist for those in need. He understood the challenges faced by individuals and advocated at all levels of government to improve the lives of our citizens. He served as a delegate to the 1992 Democratic Convention and attended the Inauguration of Bill Clinton to the Presidency. In 1995 President Clinton invited Dr. Shelton to dinner at the White House.

He viewed his political involvement as an extension of his ministry to be Christ's representative in a needy world. His love and concern for others knew no bounds. Dr. Shelton loved his congregation and they loved him. He said about being the pastor of Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church:

To have shared twenty-three years in the life of the 80 years of this church . . . Canaan to Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. In the interim before my pastoring began, I was impressed with the commitment, dedication, and love the members demonstrated towards one another. My mentor, the late Alfred L.C. Robbs afforded me every opportunity to grow, develop, and above all study formally to prepare myself spiritually.

Fortunately, I earned the opportunity to become his successor. Realizing that no one can ever fill the shoes of anyone, not even by following in the path trod before, the congregation enveloped me and has worked with me in a Christian manner. In the midst of hills and valleys, there has been much love. As great as the past has been, we have not ceased. We are striving to make the next years a journey upon which our Lord will be able to place a stamp of approval and say: "Well done, my good and faithful servants." It is our hope that you will have an opportunity to visit our church, "Where Christian Fellowship Is Real."

Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton has traveled home to be with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. During his time with us, Dr. Shelton touched lives, healed spirits, empowered the poor, and brought Christ's abundance to disheartened. He traveled the road to salvation with many people. My life is better for having known him and I share in the sorrow felt by the Christ Fellowship family. My condolences go out to his wife, Claudia, his children and to the members of Christ Fellowship. Dr. Shelton was a truly great Christian. I ask the House of Representatives to stand with me and applaud the life, charity and legacy of Reverend Dr. LeRoy Shelton.

HONORING BRYAN STONE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryan Stone, named the 2009 Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America. To win this prestigious award one must possess entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, vision and managerial acumen as well as a profound commitment to community service.

As the owner of Columbus Gourmet, Bryan Stone has grown his business while becoming an integral part of Muscogee County.

In 2004, Stone acquired a "mom and pop" business called Kendrick Pecan and in just five years he has expanded rapidly into a thriving specialty food operation that now also includes La Piccolina, Dodge City Steaks and Aunt Pearlie's. His products now enjoy strong regional brand recognition and the company now employs up to 30 people at a time.

Stone's gourmet products line the shelves of more than 900 grocery stores and he has licensing agreements for specialties and commemorative items with the Kentucky Derby, Coca-Cola, the PGA Tour, the National Infantry Foundation and Hank Aaron's Chasing the Dream Foundation.

Columbus Gourmet always cuts a slice for the local community, too. It provides vital resources to Partners in Education of Greater Columbus, which funds after-school programs, and it supplies Gourmet products that Rotary Clubs sell to raise money for charity projects.

The 3rd Congressional District resident supplements his company's philanthropic work with his own. Though he's lived there only a short time, he's already a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and he's served in a leadership with the local Republican Party.

Madam Speaker, we're justifiably proud in Georgia of our strong small business culture and the entrepreneurial spirit of our people who have helped our state grow and thrive. Bryan Stone exemplifies the hard work, risk-taking and perseverance that has made our economy the greatest in the world.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating Bryan Stone on winning the Small Business Person of the Year award. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, we're proud to have Bryan Stone as our neighbor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 211 on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, H.R. 46, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

WELCOMING THE ROMANIAN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, to welcome Romanian Foreign Minister Cristian Diaconescu to the United States. It is an honor to meet with Foreign Minister Diaconescu and highlight his extraordinary role, and that of our North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) ally and partner Romania, in addressing pressing international challenges including NATO-Russian relations, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran's developing nuclear program. It is clear to members of Congress and the Administration that Romania is integral to American, European Union and international efforts to promote democracy, rule of law and human rights.

As many of my colleagues know, Foreign Minister Diaconescu assumed his current role at the head of Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December 2008. He has repeatedly expressed a strong commitment to enhancing transatlantic relations and has been unwavering in championing the values our two nations share. To that end, the Foreign Minister has been vocal in promoting political and economic reform in Eastern Europe by strengthening democratic institutions and structures, and working to end conflict in Europe through the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

I also want to praise Romania's efforts in supporting the EU's Eastern Partnership efforts that will bolster democratic transformation in this region and hopefully lead to closer EU and Western relations with Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It is my understanding while in Washington, Foreign Minister Diaconescu will meet with Obama Administration officials and members of Congress to discuss issues of importance to both the United States and Romania, including economic, political and security conditions in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Black Sea regions. I welcome the discussion of these important and timely issues and the opportunity to highlight Romania's strong military and security commitments in Afghanistan and Iraq alongside U.S. and NATO forces. I know I share the sentiments of all Americans in expressing our gratitude for the sacrifice of brave Romanian troops, including those killed in the line of duty.

As a member of Congress who has strongly supported expansion of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to critical allies such as Romania, I look forward to discussing Bucharest's progress with the Foreign Minister and his nation's future participation in this program.

Madam Speaker, Romania is a strategic partner of the United States, and in its fifth year as a NATO member Romania has contributed at the highest levels in several missions worldwide. In April 2008, Bucharest hosted the largest NATO Summit in history and was recently praised by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer for its commit-

ment to NATO missions. I join all of my colleagues in applauding Romania's pledge to maintain its troops in Kosovo, as well as in Afghanistan, where it already has approximately 860 troops deployed. We are also grateful that the Romanian government has pledged to send additional trainers and medical personnel to the mission in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that Congress continue to support and enhance cooperation between the U.S. and our ally Romania. As a staunch supporter of American-Romanian relations, I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming Foreign Minister Diaconescu and the Romanian delegation to the United States, and I thank the Foreign Minister for his efforts and unwavering commitment to this unbreakable bond between our two nations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF BART ANDERSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, southern Utah has lost a local treasure with the passing of Bart Anderson of St. George, Utah.

Bart Anderson was often described by people who meet him for the first time as "bear-sized Bart Anderson". He loomed large in the community life of Washington County. He was a retired St. George hematologist, historian and folklorist. Everyone knew him as "Ranger Bart" because he devoted his golden years to giving slide shows at nearby national parks—including Zion National Park—as well as at state parks.

I knew Bart Anderson as a man with a passion for the stories of this part of the West, known as Utah's Dixie—so named because cotton was one of the crops grown by the Mormon settlers here at the time of the Civil War.

One of Bart's most popular presentations was one on the outlaw Butch Cassidy. It featured vintage photos of Butch Cassidy, who Bart often pointed out, could charm the locals and even the lawmen of that era.

Bart was a talented and versatile man, who turned down a number of more lucrative business offers because they would take him away from Dixie and he said he had too much red dirt running through his veins to leave.

As a child, he contracted polio and when doctors said he wouldn't walk again, his father threw him in the swimming pool to help make him strong. When he was 11, Bart's father arranged for him to work for the Boy Scouts as a guide into the back country. He developed a great love of hiking, including the Grand Canyon.

As an adult, he merged his love of hiking with his passion for story-telling by giving walking tours in downtown St. George. That morphed into a series of history lectures for which he developed over 100 slide programs that communicated his love of place to residents and visitors alike.

He married his sweetheart—Delorice—whom he called "the wind beneath my wings."

She was often in the audience during his lectures and performances. Whether he was reciting "The Ballad of Sam McGee" around a campfire with a troop of Boy Scouts, or researching history at the Washington County Historical Society, Bart Anderson was happiest when he was immersed in folklore. He received many local state and national honors, including an award as Outstanding Volunteer from former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

One of his close friends—Lyman Hafen—told the local newspaper that Anderson was one-of-a-kind—with a heart as big as Zion Canyon. I was very proud to be his friend and while he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.

FIRST AID SQUAD OF
WEEHAWKEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Volunteer First Aid Squad of Weehawken, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on May 8, 2009. This organization has provided 40 years of free emergency medical service to the Township of Weehawken and the North Hudson Community.

In 1969, the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad was the first volunteer squad to form in Hudson County. It is now only one of two remaining volunteer squads still operating in the County. Over the last forty years, the squad has responded to over 75,000 calls for help, providing initial medical treatment and transportation to the appropriate medical facility at no charge to the patient.

The squad primarily covers the Township of Weehawken, and for the last twenty years, the Town of Guttenberg, it has been directly involved in all of the most serious incidents that have struck the metropolitan area. In 1993 the squad responded to Manhattan to provide assistance to the World Trade Center when it was first attacked by terrorists. It then coordinated treatment of tens of thousands of the victims that were evacuated to New Jersey after the second terrorist attack in 2001.

Two years later the volunteer squad provided comfort to thousands of commuters who were stranded in New York City during the blackout of 2003. Most recently, the squad coordinated the response of over 50 emergency medical service units who responded to the Weehawken Ferry Terminal to assist treating passengers of the "Miracle on the Hudson" plane crash.

The squad has been a training ground for many residents who have chosen careers in the medical profession. Over the years, the volunteer squad has been honored to have six members who have gone on to become medical doctors, and hundreds who have chosen careers as nurses, paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Please join me in congratulating the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad and all members of the squad for providing the residents of Weehawken, Guttenberg and North Hudson with excellent emergency health care.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH OF HARLEM ON THEIR 90TH FOUNDERS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Chief Apostle Bishop William L. Bonner and the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith of Harlem for organizing its 90th Pre-Centennial Founders Day at the Greater Refuge Temple in honor of founder, Bishop Robert Clarence Lawson.

To speak of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ as an organization is to speak of its illustrious and dynamic founder, the late apostle, Bishop Robert C. Lawson, D.D., LL.D. We can safely say that God made His choice to use this dedicated man to work His divinely inspired plan for this great organization. For it was by his Herculean effort and prolific preaching and the mastery of the inspired scriptures that Bishop Lawson, with tenacity and determination hewed from the villages, cities, towns and hamlets, the dynamic organization known as the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith Inc.

It was in the year of 1914 when Mr. Lawson accepted the word of God and was baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Ghost. A supernatural event took place in his life, namely the miraculous healing of his body from consumption. This occurrence was stamped indelibly upon him and played a major part in the shaping of his inspired faith healing ministry.

By his own testimony we learned that Bishop Lawson was divinely called by the Lord through a whirlwind, hearing the voice of God saying "Go Preach My Word! I mean you! I mean you! I mean you! Go preach My Word."

The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ had its inception in the year 1919. Bishop Lawson, then Elder Lawson was invited to a prayer meeting, which was in progress in a basement in the 40th Street area of New York City. So energetic was his service to the Lord, that his fame spread abroad and reached the ears of Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Anderson. These two blessed couples opened their homes to Elder Lawson and their home today is affectionately thought of as the "Cradle of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ".

Within a short period of time, the congregation outgrew its place of worship, having approximately 200 members, and larger quarters had to be sought. Bishop Lawson purchased the site at 52-54-56 West 133 Street and relocated his thriving church. It was there that his vision was enlarged and the Lord laid upon his heart to conduct a tent revival and great numbers were added to the church.

The clarion call for our illustrious leader came on Sunday, July 2, 1961, and Bishop Lawson a prince of preachers, the Bible Answer man, God's shining star departed this life. The words of our famed pioneer and Apostle are still resounding in our ears: "Add Thou To It, Add Thou To It," and the answer comes from the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will, we shall, we have.

HONORING MEMBERS IN THE 547TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I also introduce a second bill in honor of members of the 547th Transportation Company, who deployed to Iraq last Saturday. The District of Columbia Executive Guard Act would give the Mayor of the District of Columbia some additional authority over the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG). In circumstances constituting local emergencies, including natural disasters and civil disturbances unrelated to national or homeland security, but not homeland security matters, the mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority as governors. The National Guards in the 50 states operate under similar dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet, the President of the United States alone has the authority to call up the DC National Guard for any purpose here, local or national. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia did historically. Today, the most likely need for the National Guard would be because of natural disasters or to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the DCNG to cover local natural disasters or civil disturbances without relying on the President, who should be preoccupied with national matters, including homeland security, which would remain the sole province of the President, along with the existing power to nationalize the D.C. National Guard at will. As it is, the President must rely on a delegated official with little familiarity of the city to call up the National Guard to duty here for any purpose. It does no harm to give the mayor the authority for civil and natural disasters. However, it could do significant harm to leave him or her powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that a governor would have control over the mobilization and deployment of the state National Guard, it makes the same sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of that of small states, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the D.C. National Guard in instances that do not rise to the level of federal importance necessary to implicate the authority of the President. Today, requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of D.C. residents, visitors and federal employees. Procedures that require the mayor to request the needed assistance from the commander in chief for a local National Guard matter are as old as the republic, and as dangerously obsolete today. Moreover, this bill merely delegates the President's authority in specific circumstances and would not deprive the President of his authority over the D.C. National Guard at will, as the Congress can do in making laws for the District despite delegated home rule. This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to

the District of Columbia that Congress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. Congress delegated most if its authority to the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act follows this model.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR THREAT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the threat Iran's potential nuclear weapon capabilities have on the Middle East, the world, and particularly Israel.

In March, President Obama offered to open a dialogue with Iran. His olive branch was immediately met with scorn by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Iran has not cooled its international animosity since then, as noted by Defense Secretary Robert Gates as recently as Tuesday.

Talk is fine if it is premised in achieving realistic goals, but the Iranian regime has used past efforts at negotiation to delay and divide the United States and our allies in our efforts to turn Tehran from a nuclear enrichment program that clearly could be used for nuclear bombs.

Time for an open hand policy is running out. I believe it is time to up the stakes on Iran.

One way to accomplish that would be to pass the Iran Threat Reduction Act, H.R. 1208, which was introduced by Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. H.R. 1208, of which I am an original cosponsor, would extend current U.S. sanctions until the president certifies Iran has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction program and ceased its support for international terrorism. It also would significantly increase U.S. pressure on Tehran to do both.

The bill would sharply increase U.S. efforts to stop the shipment of refined petroleum and natural gas products to Iran, as well as materials needed for building or maintaining oil and gas pipelines. Furthermore, the bill completely prohibits U.S. importation of most Iranian products. It also denies U.S. foreign tax credits to Americans engaged in business activity with Iran that is prohibited by U.S. law.

March 17 marked the 17th anniversary of the bombing by Iranian proxies of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 and wounded 242. It is but one of hundreds of attacks Iran has made against Israel and the United States in a war Iran seems committed to continue.

Without direct Iranian support, Tehran's proxies, llamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, would be far less formidable foes for Israel. Without Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Iranian weapons, the United States would have suffered hundreds of fewer casualties in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the time for talk has ended. The United States should increase the pressure on Iran immediately. I therefore urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Iran Threat Reduction Act and I urge leadership to bring it to the floor for quick passage.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as a former student who attended community college, I stand in strong support of H. Res. 338, a resolution which supports the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. Our nation's community colleges provide the dream of achieving a higher education to millions of students each year. Community colleges are the nation's key supplier of workforce development and retraining needs and in addition, they build lasting partnerships and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. My congressional district is home to one of the oldest and most diverse community colleges in California—the Riverside Community College District—so I am proud to express my support of National Community College Month.

RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNUAL
LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL
FOOD DRIVE**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my support for the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

The Letter Carriers National Food Drive is being conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns, in every congressional district in all 50 states and jurisdictions. On May 9th, letter carriers will collect food from their postal customers along their route. This is the largest one-day food drive in the country with nearly one billion pounds of food being donated to food banks and pantries since its inception.

The Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive is made possible by the letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), rural letter carriers, other postal employees and volunteers, as well as the countless citizens who donate. To participate, all someone has to do is place a box or can of non-perishable food next to the mailbox on May 9th and a letter carrier will collect it and bring it back to the postal station to be sorted before it is delivered to a local food bank.

To nearly 35.5 million people in our country, hunger is a daily struggle. During this troubling economic time, many families are finding it increasingly difficult to put food on the table. This year, more than ever, donations are needed.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize and support the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, and Tuesday, May 5, 2009, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes as a result of an illness. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: Rollcall No. 229—"yes"; Rollcall No. 230—"yes"; Rollcall No. 231—"yes"; Rollcall No. 232—"yes"; Rollcall No. 233—"yes."

RECOGNIZING RIVERDALE HIGH
SCHOOL**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the faculty and students of Riverdale High School for a truly remarkable achievement.

On May 12, Riverdale High will be awarded the National College Board's Inspiration Award—an award that recognizes America's three most improved secondary schools.

As many of my colleagues will recall, the National College Board's Inspiration Award seeks out schools with high academic standards, as well as schools that encourage students to prepare for college. Once selected, recipients are afforded national recognition and a check for \$25,000.

Madam Speaker, Riverdale High School has approximately 1,500 students. More than 80 percent are on free or reduced lunch. Almost half of the school's students are migrants and a quarter of the population is learning English for the first time. Despite these challenges, Riverdale High offers an academically rigorous environment, including 12 AP courses, a choral and music program, as well as ROP, and drama and agriculture curriculum.

With this academic rigor has come great academic achievement. Riverdale High School has achieved a graduation rate of 98 percent over the past three years. Of these young men and women, 90 percent are continuing their education.

Simply put, they are doing amazing work in this small community. You cannot argue with results and I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the people who have made this honor for Riverdale High possible.

IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT
CAUSED THE ECONOMIC MELT-
DOWN**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the current economic crisis continues to take a devastating toll on families and businesses across this nation, and the world.

Never before have we witnessed so much economic turmoil. Within a matter of months,

Americans saw much of their life savings and their home equity disappear. Nest eggs evaporated literally overnight. Plans for a college education dashed. The dream of homeownership turned into a nightmare of foreclosure.

Today, unemployment continues to rise, credit markets are in a shambles, and businesses large and small are closing. The problems in our banking and financial system have infected the global economy, undermining confidence in our own markets.

To boost sagging demand in our economy, the federal government is now spending hundreds of billions of dollars at a pace that is unprecedented in our history. As the Congress and the new administration put in place measures to resolve this crisis, it is time for the Congress to provide the American people with a clear assessment on how we got into this mess and what ought to be done to prevent it from happening again.

Frankly speaking, given all the money that's been spent, the American people deserve a full accounting. They deserve an honest and unvarnished assessment of the causes of this crisis. Because, without a thorough diagnosis, how can we make sure that a crisis like this never happens again?

That is why I am joining with Congressman STEVEN LATOURETTE in calling for the establishment of an independent, bipartisan commission, charged with examining the root causes of the current global financial crisis.

It would resemble the 9/11 Commission in its objectivity and independence and have one year to investigate the crisis. It would have the authority to refer to law enforcement any evidence that institutions or individuals may have violated existing laws. At the end of its investigation, the Commission will report to the President and to the Congress its recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes necessary to protect our country from a repeat of this financial collapse.

I voted against the Wall Street bailout proposals last fall, because, as I said back then, they did not deal with the root causes of the crisis; they failed to give the American people a full and fair accounting of what happened; and they failed to hold accountable those who caused the crisis.

Today, I still believe we must do this and unless we take these actions, we will be failing in our responsibility as an institution to fully serve the people who elected us. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to support this proposal.

CODY TURNBULL

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Turnbull of Weston, Missouri. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Turnball for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AND THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO "STAMP OUT HUNGER"

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the dedication and achievements of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers. May 9th, 2009 marks the 17th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger." On that day, letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along postal routes.

Letter carriers from over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam collected a record setting 73.1 million pounds in last year's drive. The drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May. Donations will be collected by more than 1,400 local branches of the 300,000-member postal union and delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters in the communities where they are collected.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers for their dedication and hard work in the communities to help provide food for the growing number of American families facing hunger in these difficult economic times.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB BISHOP

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be able to sponsor this resolution commending Charter Schools for their contributions to education, and designating this week as National Charter School Week. Successful businesses don't build a product and then find a target group to which to market their product. Successful businesses pick a target group, find a need, then build a product that satisfies that need.

When we talk about reforming education, we must remember that parents are the target market. Kids belong to the parent, not to an educator or a legislator. We unfortunately forget this too often. There is sometimes an institutional attitude of antagonism toward parents. In a 1910 essay entitled *How We Think*, even John Dewey wrote that one inhibitor to problem solving was parental values. One could ask whose values would have been more ap-

propriate. A school's direction ought to be agreeable to parents. The final word ought to be with parents. If the parents are satisfied, who else cares and what else matters? Schools are for the kids and the parents and no one else.

Charter schools take us a large step in that direction—the direction of treating parents as the customers. In Utah, there are currently 67 charter schools serving 27,000 kids, and there are several more slated to open this year. Several have a specific emphasis on math and science, and several others focus on the arts. The curriculum is often selected by parents. There are no geographical boundaries to any of them. Some charters belong to a school district, and others are their own district.

There is often a higher demand than there is supply of seats in a charter, so in Utah those seats are generally awarded by a lottery system. Nationally, there are more than 365,000 kids on charter school waiting lists. Why is it that parents want their kids to attend charter schools? It's because a charter school meets their needs better. Charter schools take us closer to the goal of treating the parents as the customers. In many cases charters have a large percentage of students who are either minorities or economically disadvantaged—in one Utah charter, 70% of the students fall in this category. Many of these are kids who haven't done well in traditional public schools, but who thrive in the charter school. Several studies have backed this up by showing that kids who are behind academically do better in a charter school than they would in a traditional public school. Charters are able to innovate, find creative ways to meet the needs of parents and kids, and the customer is satisfied.

In that sense, charter schools are the most accountable of all our public schools. They're directly accountable to parents, because if the parents aren't satisfied, they'll take their kids elsewhere. In Utah, it's working. According to one study, 94% of parents gave their children's charter school an A or B grade. The success of Charter schools should also teach us the potential of the public education system. Charter schools are not private schools. They are public schools. Public schools can easily compete with private schools when the public schools are released from bureaucratic restrictions and allowed to be creative. Only with the freedom to be creative can any school meet the individual needs of students and parents. Without choices and freedom to be creative, kids become a widget on a conveyor belt to the local school "factory."

There are a number of things we can do to allow charters to continue to grow, including eliminating the caps on the number of charter schools, and addressing inequitable funding treatment. We will continue to encourage these reforms, and we'll continue to lower the barriers to innovation and creativity in education.

One member of the Utah State Charter School Board said, in many ways, charter schools are doing for education what the printing press did for the world of communication. Charter schools have promised creativity, innovation, inspiration, and motivation, and I believe they have delivered.

Charter schools have ignited the desire to rethink aspects of our nation's education system. They have shown how involved parents

can and will be in their children's education. They are finding ways to reduce class size, deliver the Core Curriculum to smaller school communities, and increase individualization of instruction.

Charter schools are helping our public education system to be the best it can be for every child. I commend the parents, teachers, administrators, and creative innovators involved in charter schools throughout the country.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER JULIA MARY FARLEY, C.S.J. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER WORK AS FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Julia Mary Farley, an extraordinary and dedicated woman who has been providing care and shelter for homeless women and children in the 34th District in Los Angeles for the last quarter of a century. On May 15, 2009, friends and supporters of the Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children will celebrate the center's 25th anniversary and honor Sister Julia Mary for her years of service to the homeless.

A native of Chicago, Sister Julia Mary has been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since 1951. She has a Master's Degree in Health Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Loyola Marymount University. As a hospital administrator, Sister Julia Mary worked in hospitals in Lewiston, Idaho, and Pasco, Washington, St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, and Daniel Freeman Hospitals in Inglewood and Marina del Rey, California. She also taught at Mount St. Mary's College and several elementary schools in Los Angeles. In 1983, Sister Julia Mary joined the staff of Angels Flight, a crisis intervention center for runaway teenagers operated by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The following year, Cardinal Timothy Manning noticed that the number of homeless women on the street around St. Vibiana's Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles was increasing dramatically. To address this disturbing trend, he initiated the establishment of a program to provide emergency services to homeless women. He named Sister Julia Mary as the new program's director.

Since 1984, the Good Shepherd Center has empowered women to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency through its housing, employment, and support services. Under Sister Julia Mary's leadership, the center has grown from an emergency shelter and drop-in center to five residential facilities offering a broad spectrum of employment and support services a quarter of a century later.

Following the opening of the emergency shelter and drop-in center on May 6, 1984, Good Shepherd Center expanded its services

over the next eight years. The center added a Mobile Outreach Program to take food, clothing, offers of shelter and words of hope to women on the street. In 1988, the center's Belmont Avenue shelter expanded to provide transitional housing for 30 single homeless women, and four years later, the center established a transitional residence serving nine mothers and 20 children in an old Craftsman house.

In 1998, fulfilling Sister Julia Mary's dream, the center opened the first phase of the "Women's Village." The Hawkes Transitional Residence provides transitional and affordable housing for homeless women and their children as well as facilities to train the women for jobs. Two years later, in 2000, the second phase of the "Women's Village" was completed with the Angel Guardian Home. It provides 12 apartments that offer long-term housing in a supportive community setting for homeless mothers with disabilities and their children. In June 2008, the final piece of the Women's Village was completed, with the opening of the Sister Julia Mary Farley Women's Village. This facility provides transitional housing in one-bedroom apartments for 21 employed homeless women. It also includes an employment and client services center that serves all Good Shepherd Center residents, and The Village Kitchen—a bakery and cafe in which residents receive job training and experience in the culinary arts.

With the completion of the Women's Village, Sister Julia Mary and Good Shepherd Center now serve more than 1,100 homeless women and children annually, and house 150 women and children each night.

I have had the privilege of visiting with Sister Julia Mary and the residents of Good Shepherd Center, and I must say the determination of the women to make better lives for themselves and their children is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Sister Julia Mary Farley's founding of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, I ask my colleagues to please join me in commending Sister Julia Mary for her vision and tireless efforts to provide daily inspiration to the center's residents, friends, generous donors, skilled staff, and caring volunteers, and in thanking her for a lifetime of dedicated service to homeless women and their children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL
JANE HELTON, UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jane Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after thirty-five years of dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Chief of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for the Joint Staff of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. She is the principal advisor to the Chief and senior National Guard leaders for all sexual assault prevention matters.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in August, 1974. After departing active duty she

served as a Noncommissioned Officer with the 143d Evacuation Hospital in the California National Guard. In 1980 she graduated from Officer's Candidate School and was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served as a Health Services officer in the 175th Medical Brigade and commanded the 980th MEDSOM and the 308th Medical Company. Colonel Helton was activated and served in Kuwait during Desert Storm in the 3d Medical Command as a medical logistics officer and as the Director of Medical Redeployment. After returning to the United States she returned to active duty and served as an Operations Officer and Special Events Officer in the Army G3's Office of Military Support to Civilian Authorities. She helped coordinate and provide medical support during several natural disasters, including New York City immediately after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001. Colonel Helton served as the Chief of the Wounded Warrior Program for the 27th Infantry Brigade at Fort Drum, NY where she helped develop the model wounded warrior program for the entire Army. She also served as the Chief of Command Policy and Programs in the Army G1, responsible for Army policies which included Women in Combat, Suicide Prevention, Religious Accommodation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other high profile Army policies.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the AMEDD Officer basic and advanced courses, Medical Logistics Management Course, Contracting Officers Course, Movement Officers Course, Mobilization Officer Planners Course, Military Support to Civil Authorities Course, Command and General Staff College, Army Management Staff College, Risk Communication Course, Georgetown University Congressional Liaison Course, and Advanced Crisis Incident Stress Management Course. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the California Coast University and a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Jane Helton. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for her tireless service and support of the warfighter. She has been a compassionate leader and professional staff officer whose expertise and sacrifice showcase her patriotism and selfless commitment to our great nation. She is a woman of honor and principle. I would like to thank Colonel Helton for her years of dedicated service, and I wish her, her husband Ray, their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join the millions of Americans who will participate in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Since the earliest days of our republic, our nation's leaders have seen fit to formally ac-

knowledge the value and power of our people's prayers by designating specific times where we encourage prayer for the future of our country. President Truman declared the first National Day of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 President Reagan signed a law declaring that the first Thursday in May would be an annual National Day of Prayer.

I can think of no greater calling than for people of all ages, races, and religious creeds to join together and raise their prayers and petitions to the Almighty.

To that end, the YMCA of Middle of Tennessee and the Operation Andrew Group are organizing National Day of Prayer events all across Middle Tennessee. These events will encourage citizens to pray for the future of our communities and our nation, to pray for those placed in positions of societal leadership, and to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy.

At the Maryland Farms YMCA, in the City of Brentwood, individuals will gather to lift up prayers and participate in this wonderful occasion.

I invite all Members of Congress to please join me in praying for the City of Brentwood, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America during the National Day of Prayer.

HONORING LT. MATTHEW JOHN
GORDON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania who has retired after more than 20 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon started his law enforcement career with the Parkesburg Police Department and has faithfully served the City of Coatesville Police Department since 1989.

Lieutenant Gordon earned the respect of fellow officers and elected officials with his outstanding work ethic and exemplary police work throughout his distinguished career.

In addition to protecting the citizens of Coatesville, he also served as Commander of the Chester County Emergency Response Team since its inception in 2002.

Colleagues and friends will celebrate Lieutenant Gordon's career accomplishments and wish him well in retirement on May 8, 2009 during a dinner at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL
NURSING WEEK

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, in honor and in celebration of National Nursing

Week, I'd like to recognize the achievements of Francis Payne Bolton and the impact of the Bolton Act on the field of nursing.

Madam Speaker, the Bolton Act of 1943, introduced by Congresswoman Frances Payne Bolton, created the Cadet Nurse Corps. The Corps provided Federal funds to nearly 125,000 nurses during World War II to facilitate their training and greatly increase the wartime supply of nurses and care for American citizens on both the home and war fronts. It also significantly improved post-World War II nursing education, replacing the apprenticeship-type training approach in nursing schools with an academic approach and encouraging nurses to study related areas of public health, pediatrics, psychiatric care, and convalescent care. It further benefitted the nursing field by prompting attention and Federal financial aid to graduate nursing degrees, and contributed to the integration of African-Americans into the nursing field.

Madam Speaker, Francis Payne Bolton was the first woman in Ohio elected to the House of Representatives. She served fourteen consecutive terms and later served as trustee of Lakeside Hospital (Cleveland, OH), Lake Erie College (Painesville, OH), and the Central School of Practical Nursing (Cleveland). Trustees at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, named their School of Nursing in her honor. She died in Lyndhurst, OH, on March 9, 1977.

Madam Speaker, last year, I introduced legislation with the late-Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Bolton Act. Frances Payne Bolton single-handedly made sure we had enough nurses at home and overseas during World War II, and helped elevate nursing as an important and critical profession. I am honored to recognize her and her contributions during National Nursing Week, and I yield back.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I told the District of Columbia National Guard 547th Transportation Company, who deployed to Iraq last Saturday, that I would introduce two D.C. National Guard bills this week in their honor. Therefore, today I first introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act, NGRCA, a bill to permanently authorize funding for a program to provide grants for secondary education tuition to the members of the D.C. National Guard. I also introduce the District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act to give the mayor of the District of Columbia authority to call the D.C. National Guard for assistance with natural disasters and non-security civil disturbances. NGRCA authorizes an education incentive program, recommended by former Major General David Wherley and his successor, Major General Errol Schwartz, who suggested that education grants would be useful in stemming the troublesome loss of members of the D.C. Guard to units, in part, because sur-

rounding states offer such educational benefits. I am grateful that the Appropriations Committee has allocated appropriation funds in some years, with smaller contribution from the District, in the Defense Authorization bill. An authorization is necessary to assure that the D.C. National Guard members receive equal treatment and benefits to other National Guard members on a regular basis, especially with surrounding states that do, in fact, have the higher education benefits we seek for D.C. National Guard members. The Guard for the Nation's Capital is severely under-competing for members from the pool of regional residents, who find membership in the Maryland and Virginia Guards more beneficial. A competitive tuition assistance program for the D.C. National Guard will provide significant incentive and leverage to help counteract declining enrollment and level the field of competition.

The D.C. National Guard, a federal instrument that is not under the control of the mayor of the District of Columbia (but see District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act), is losing personnel to other Guards, partly because it is not able to offer the same level of benefits that adjacent National Guards provide. The federal government supports most other D.C. National Guard functions and should support this small benefit as well.

The small education incentives in my bill would not only encourage high quality recruits, but would have the important benefit of helping the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence, including Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, and visitors, if an attack on the Nation's Capital should occur. I am pleased to introduce this bill on the advice of Guard personnel who know best what is necessary.

A strong D.C. National Guard able to attract the best soldiers is especially important given the unique mission of the D.C. National Guard to protect the federal presence in addition to D.C. residents. This responsibility distinguishes the D.C. National Guard from any other National Guard. The D.C. National Guard is specially and specifically trained to meet its unique mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING ALL SAINTS ACADEMY 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of young ladies from Breese, Illinois.

The All Saints Academy 8th grade girls volleyball team dominated this year's Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association's Class M state tournament, sweeping through the field to earn the state title. Competing against some of the top teams in Southern Illinois, the ASA team won all three matches in straight sets, knocking off Goreville in the quarterfinals and Pinckneyville in the semifinals, then defeating St. Peter/Paul for the title. The trophy-clinching win was a thrilling 25-22 squeaker.

I want to congratulate Coaches Tricia Winter and Don Bedard on this year's success. I especially want to congratulate the members of

the state championship volleyball team from All Saints Academy: Jade Beckmann, Rachel Boeckmann, Chelsea Crocker, Julie Deiters, Holland Hempen, Haley Johnson, Bailey Kampwerth, Merideth Kloeckner, Abby Luebbers, Maddie Mensing, Shannon Mensing, Jessica Peters, Gabrielle Schnieder, Kari Wiegmann and Megan Zurliene. They have achieved great things for their school and their community, and I want to wish them all the best in the future, both on the court and in the classroom.

FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as today is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, I rise to introduce a resolution highlighting the importance of identifying and nurturing the factors that contribute to the healthy development of African American youth, and their ability to achieve equal levels of physical and mental development enjoyed by their peers.

Throughout my life and tenure in Congress, I have always advocated protecting the rights of minorities. I stand before you today to promote the strength, health and well-being of African American youth, who are faced with many adversities.

African American youth are disproportionately exposed to many risk factors such as poverty, neighborhood violence, and a wide range of health conditions. These risk factors coupled with continued cultural oppression limit resilience in African American youth. Resilience is a dynamic, multidimensional practice involving the interaction between individuals and their environments within the context of family, peers, school, community, and society, across space and time.

It is our responsibility to acknowledge and understand the legacy of cultural oppression and racial discrimination that African American youth encounter in their daily lives. In doing so, we must also research how these components relate to resilience and various types of behavioral and emotional development.

Madam Speaker, this resolution is not only meant to seek support in this matter but also to generate awareness and collaboration toward resilience research among federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, such as the American Psychological Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and Mental Health America which have endorsed this resolution.

It is vital that we provide the necessary tools to chart a path to success for African American youth.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking a stand against the cultural oppression and racial discrimination that many African American youth encounter by supporting this resolution.

CONGRATULATING TOKAY HIGH SCHOOL FOR COMPETING IN THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate the students of Tokay High School in Lodi, California for winning their regional Science Bowl competition, hosted by the Department of Energy. The National Science Bowl is an academic competition testing students' skills in math and science. Only 67 high schools from around the country are asked to participate in this National Competition, and Tokay students recently visited Washington, DC to compete in the national finals. Math, science, and technology education are keys to our nation's future, and Tokay's students are an example of excellence. I hope that Tokay students continue to participate in the National Science Bowl and that I see them back next year.

IN TRIBUTE TO DANNY GOKEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Danny Gokey, who over the past several months has captured the hearts and minds of the entire country—especially the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin.

Danny's quest to be the next "American Idol" is a love story. In a sense, it is even magical. His wife, Sophia, encouraged him to audition for Idol. Ironically, shortly after his audition he suffered the tragic loss of his beautiful wife, Sophia, at the age of 27. In memory of his wife, he established Sophia's Heart Foundation, whose mission is to make a positive impact on students' lives through a Music and Arts Program. Musical instruments will be donated to students that otherwise would be unable to afford them. The Sophia L. Gokey Scholarship Fund will donate \$1,000 scholarships to high school students who face challenges in pursuing their dreams. In spite of Danny's loss, he has continued to perform courageously and professionally each week while confronting both physical and mental challenges presented by this competition.

Danny has been singing since childhood. Prior to "American Idol", he served as Praise and Worship Director for Faith Builders International Ministries, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I have been told that Danny's favorite quote is "unshakeable faith is faith that has been shaken". He has overcome obstacles, personal tragedies and still continues to work toward his dream. His love for the church, family, music and life are an inspiration to all of us. His musical gifts along with his desire to find new hope, after experiencing such loss, is inspiring.

Madam Speaker, in Milwaukee, there is an enormous amount of enthusiasm and support

for our 28-year-old "hometown hero". I am honored to pay tribute to this very impressive young man who Milwaukee views as their very own "idol". Go, Danny go!

MINORITY BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 SUMMARY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, this bill breaks down barriers for minority and women owned businesses through amending the Small Business Act to allow for greater participation in the Disadvantaged Business Assistance Program. It also makes permanent increases made by the Obama Administration for greater bonding capacity in addition to broadening the definition of contract bundling so that small businesses are better able to compete for and secure government contracts.

Modify the Small Business Administration's Disadvantaged Business Program to allow for greater minority participation by raising the personal net worth (PNW) threshold and allowing firms to complete a federal contract before losing the assistance of the program.

Make permanent the Surety Bonding Guarantee increase made in H.R. 1.

Broaden the definition of contract bundling to force contracting officers to break up large contracts to increase small business participation.

Increase oversight of contract bundling by allowing the SBA Administrator to review any contract they feel is bundling and allow OMB to mediate any disputes between parties.

Increase the government wide small business procurement goal to 25%.

Prohibit contracting officers from coding a minority business in any more than one other minority category to make reporting numbers more accurate.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. GEORGE VANDE WOUDE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. George Vande Woude. After a long and successful career in cancer research, Dr. Vande Woude has recently decided to retire from his administrative post, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize him and his body of work.

Dr. Vande Woude earned his Master of Science degree and doctorate from Rutgers University. Early in his career, he served the federal government as a research virologist for the United States Department of Agriculture at Plum Island Animal Disease Center, and shortly after began a long tenure at the National Institutes of Health. Initially, he joined the National Cancer Institute as Head of the Human Tumor Studies and Virus Tumor Biochemistry Sections. Thereafter, he served in a

variety of different organizations within the Institute from 1972 until 1999, when he was selected to be the first Director of the newly created Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Vande Woude's commitment to public service and improving the health of our nation has undoubtedly saved many lives. His pioneering research has resulted in new ways to isolate and detect cancer cells, and has led to earlier treatments and interventions. By identifying the biological players in cancer tumor progression and development, Dr. Vande Woude and his laboratory have supported expansive research which was instrumental in finding innovative strategies to eliminate harmful cancer cell precursors.

Dr. Vande Woude has made significant and substantial contributions to our current understanding of the molecular biology of cancer. His career is peppered with many firsts, including being the first to use recombinant DNA technology to isolate certain retroviruses and compare their behavior. He was first to determine the structure and sequence of DNA precursors which are instrumental in the development of cancer. His laboratory was first to demonstrate that a normal gene could be activated as a cancerous gene. These findings provided a foundation for the search for active cancerous cells (oncogenes) in tumors. His long-term studies of the *mos* oncogene have led to the first direct connection between cancer cells and the enzymes which regulate cell cycles. Equally important was his discovery of the human *met* oncogene that is involved in a wide range of cancers and has become a leading candidate for new cancer therapies. There are numerous other advancements which have emerged from Dr. Vande Woude's laboratory, all of which have helped the healthcare community understand how to combat cancerous tumors and address their risks even prior to development.

His efforts have gone beyond personal excellence. Over the years, Dr. Vande Woude has mentored more than 70 postdoctoral fellows, students, and visiting scientists. By investing in future generations, he has inspired countless researchers, and his legacy will last far beyond his personally prolific research.

Dr. Vande Woude has been honored as an elected Fellow of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences, and is a recipient of the National Institutes of Health Merit Award, the Robert J. and Claire Pasarow Foundation Award for Cancer Research, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in Technology Transfer from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He has also served on advisory panels too numerous to name and authored and edited hundreds of research articles and other publications.

Undoubtedly, "retirement" for Dr. Vande Woude will be in name only, as he continues to keep a fierce pace of life and contribute in a variety of ways to the advancement of science and the education of future generations. He will maintain a role at the Van Andel Institute as a Distinguished Scientific Fellow and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Oncology. Grand Rapids has been blessed by his leadership at the Van Andel Institute, and the world will note and remember his contributions to science and education for generations to come.

HONORING JACK KEMP

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 401, which honors the legacy of former Representative Jack Kemp. I became friends with Jack when we served together in the House of Representatives from 1976 to 1985. Our friendship was based on our shared conviction that low taxes and sound monetary policy are essential to liberty and prosperity.

Jack is probably best known for the key role he played in the "supply side revolution" that led to the tax rate reductions of the early eighties. However, what I most remember about Jack was that he was one of the few politicians I have met who understood how fiat money harms Americans. Jack was passionate about reforming monetary policy so America would again have, as Jack memorably put it, a "dollar as good as gold." It was largely due to Jack's efforts that the Republican Party platform of 1980 endorsed a return to the gold standard. Jack's support was instrumental in me being named to the U.S. Gold Commission in 1982. While I was not always in total agreement with Jack's views on monetary policy, I always appreciated his interest in the issue.

In his later years, Jack was critical of the idea that the best way to promote human liberty was through an aggressively militaristic foreign policy. In his 1996 campaign for Vice President, Jack attacked the Clinton Administration's aggressive foreign policy, famously quipping that the United States government should not "bomb before breakfast." In my last conversation with Jack, he shared with me his opposition to the Iraq war.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 401 and honor the best of Jack Kemp's legacy by working for low taxes, sound money, and a sensible foreign policy.

HONORING CHRISTI MORSE
GILBERT**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christi Morse Gilbert for receiving the National Childcare Provider Award. Christi was honored today in the nation's capital for her unwavering commitment in providing high quality childcare services to needy children.

As an educator, Christi was keen on understanding the disparities that existed amongst young children who struggled when they began grade school. To address this problem, she quit her job as an elementary school teacher to become a childcare services provider for children under the age of five. Her work focuses on preparing her charges with the cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills that they need to be productive.

In order to achieve this goal, Christi has designed a dynamic curriculum that introduces children to the basics of mathematics and the

sciences through fun experiments and hands-on activities. She has exposed her pupils to the different cultures around the world through music and other extracurricular activities.

Christi is an accomplished woman who has opened her home and her heart to Indianapolis area families, so that our children are able to grow and learn in a nurturing environment. I applaud her for her dedication to ensuring that the needs of young children are met.

Madam Speaker and esteemed colleagues, I urge you to join me in thanking Christi Morse Gilbert for her ceaseless efforts as an educator and childcare provider.

TAIWAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to learn that the Republic of China (Taiwan) has now been invited to participate in this year's World Health Assembly meetings in Geneva. With the rapid spread of infectious diseases around the globe, Taiwan should have been included in the global health network a long time ago. Also, my best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou on his first anniversary in office this May 20th.

I hope that Taiwan will soon be able to participate meaningfully in the activities of all United Nations specialized agencies. Taiwan's international participation will most certainly encourage even faster cross-strait dialogue and permanent peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, congratulations to the people of Taiwan and to their president Mr. Ma Ying-jeou on this important diplomatic breakthrough. This is Taiwan's first participation in a formal United Nations activity since 1971 when it withdrew from the United Nations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY
AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT
(SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident

status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in a September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a five-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Mexico, Canada, China and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our nation's security, make the administration of our immigration laws more consistent and fair, and help reduce immigration fraud and opportunism.

S. 386, THE FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, particularly language strengthening the provisions of the False Claims Act. At a time when the U.S. Government is spending hundreds of billions of dollars to jump start our faltering economy, we need to reassure the American people that we will have a "zero tolerance" approach to fraud. It is important that we honor taxpayer dollars as if they were our own.

In January of this year, the House passed H. Res. 40, which I sponsored. This resolution, now part of the House rules, requires each House committee to conduct at least three hearings a year on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in the agencies under the committee's jurisdiction. It puts in place a systematic mechanism for regular oversight.

S. 386 complements and parallels the intent of H. Res. 40, with key provisions to bolster the False Claims Act. The False Claims Act was first signed into law in 1863, as President Lincoln sought to combat fraud against the United States during the Civil War. It allows private individuals to bring lawsuits on behalf of the United States, in order to recover funds that were wrongfully obtained through fraud. In 1986, the statute was amended.

In the 20-plus years since the False Claims Act was last amended, however, many federal courts around the country have misinterpreted and weakened the statute, making it more difficult for private citizens and the government to expose and prosecute fraud against the United States. Today, as our country is in the midst of two wars and faces the worst economic crisis that most of us have ever lived through, fraud against the government is again on the rise; the time has come to strengthen the False Claims Act once more. S. 386 does just that.

Mr. Speaker, the False Claims Act is the Federal Government's most effective tool to combat fraud. At a time when additional government funds are exposed to potential fraud, the American taxpayers need to be assured that their money is not being mismanaged.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and reaffirm their commitment to the American taxpayers.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Oak Lawn, Illinois as it celebrates its centennial. Throughout its history, the Village of Oak Lawn has strived to embody the best qualities of its residents, and in doing so has served commendably as a great place to work, shop, raise a family, and retire.

Beginning with its first settler in 1842, the Village of Oak Lawn has prospered through the years. Symbolic of the ever-expanding United States, 1881 saw the laying of the railroad tracks that connected the area to the world. The railroad and the subsequent railway stations, telegraph office, and post office laid the groundwork for a population that grew to include churches, schools, and 300 residents by the early 1900's. Oak Lawn's growing population, coupled with concerns about autonomy from the City of Chicago and the promise of a much-desired gas pipe, motivated the Village to incorporate in 1909. The hard work of the men and women of Oak Lawn led to the development of a fire department, library, park district and more schools by the mid 1940's. Village population boomed to 27,000 by the 1960's, only to have Oak Lawn rocked by a major tornado in 1967. Undeterred by that devastating event, Oak Lawn grew to its current size of 57,000 by the 1970's.

Today, the Village of Oak Lawn is a successful, bustling community well-positioned to continue its prosperity in the 21st century. The Village employs 400 people in an official capacity and boasts a fantastic parks system, a state of the art library, and over 300 acres of parks and recreational facilities. Oak Lawn's excellent education system lays the groundwork for the success and development of future generations, boasting many excellent public schools and five Catholic grammar schools. Advocate Christ Medical Center and Hope Children's Hospital are located in Oak Lawn, providing some of the most acclaimed pediatrics, cardiology, surgical services, oncology, women's services and emergency medicine in the area. And the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn serves countless children from across the region who come to learn, grow, and have fun.

From the first resident in 1842 to the current 57,000 residents, citizens of the Village of Oak Lawn have shown grit, determination, and a commitment to excellence and have continued to grow a vibrant community in suburban Cook County.

I am proud to have in the 3rd District of Illinois such a strong example of what makes the United States great. May these first one hundred years be only the beginning. I ask my colleagues to rise with me to recognize the history and achievements of the residents of Oak Lawn as the Village celebrates its centennial anniversary.

HONORING DANIEL AND KIM IRWIN FOR THEIR WORK WITH THE FAISON SCHOOL—AUTISM CENTER OF VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel and Kim Irwin and their work with the Faison School—Autism Center of Virginia.

This month Mr. and Mrs. Irwin were honored with a CARE Award honoring the significant contributions they have made in the education of America's youth. Their dedication to children with autism and to the Faison School can be seen in their ongoing professional growth and the tremendous success of their students.

Dan and Kim both started at the Faison School over 5 years ago. During this time they both obtained teacher certifications, board certifications in behavior analysis, and even master's degrees. Over the course of this time they became engaged, then married, and are now expecting their first child.

The Irwins have been an integral part of the school's growth and have helped to teach many children with autism to become successful learners, better communicators, and independent thinkers. In fact, the work they are doing goes a long way in making a difference in the lives of children with autism.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Irwins and wishing them all the best in their future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOME LOAN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Veterans Home Loan Improvement Act of 2009" along with Reps. BOB FILNER (CA), SUSAN DAVIS (CA), KURT SCHRAEDER (OR), GREG WALDEN (OR), PETER DEFAZIO (OR), DAVID WU (OR), RON KIND (WI), STEVE KAGEN (WI), AL GREEN (TX), and DON YOUNG (AK). Together we represent each of the states that would benefit from an expansion of the Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bond program.

This program was originally created after World War II to promote homeownership among our returning troops. Together, our states offer veterans mortgage loans at more favorable interest rates as a reward for their service to our nation. As part of a comprehensive review of veterans' services in the state of Oregon, the Oregon Governor's Veterans Task Force recommended a further expansion of this highly effective program.

This Act is based on one particularly timely recommendation to expand eligibility for our state programs and bring affordable mortgages to an additional 264,000 veterans. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Oregon and the nation's veterans to ensure that we provide the best possible quality of care and service.

TUCSON CITIZEN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Tucson Citizen which is closing after 138 years.

The Arizona Citizen was founded in 1870, by John Wasson, a newspaper man from California, with help from Richard McCormick, the territory's governor and later territorial delegate to Congress. In 1976, Gannett Co., Inc. bought the newspaper and changed its name from the Arizona Citizen to the Tucson Citizen.

The closure of the Tucson Citizen is a great loss for the community of Southern Arizona. As the state's oldest newspaper, the Tucson Citizen has been a part of Arizona's history. During its existence, the Citizen reported on Arizona's biggest stories, among them the 1881 gunfight at the OK Corral and the 1934 arrest of bank robber John Dillinger.

The Tucson Citizen has been a place that Tucsonans turned to for local news. The stories published reflected the diverse community and the stories that impacted multiple generations.

Losing the Tucson Citizen is losing a piece of history and losing a bit of family.

For the past several decades, the Tucson Citizen has been a family affair. Many a reporter, assignment editor and publisher worked in the same newsroom as their previous relatives. This newspaper worked hard to connect our present with our past and another voice will be lost when the doors finally shut forever.

From the beginning, there have been individuals dedicated to keeping the public informed, communities educated, and discourse alive and well. Throughout its existence, the Tucson Citizen has worked to provide our community with accurate information. A desire for good journalism is vital to fostering a more enlightened public. I ask to recognize the Tucson Citizen for its contribution to Southern Arizona.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEVIN COOK

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Kevin Cook, former Clerk of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, who recently retired after ten years of honorable service for the U.S. Congress and over thirty years of service with the federal government. During my time serving as a Member of this Subcommittee, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Mr. Cook and benefiting from his knowledge and counsel on budgetary, policy and oversight matters.

Mr. Cook devoted his career to serving in the federal government and spent almost three decades working for various federal agencies and for Congress. Mr. Cook started his career as a geologist for the U.S. Forest Service before spending over 20 years as a hydrologist, water resources planner, project

manager and physical scientist for the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Cook came to the House of Representatives in 1998, where he served as Science Advisor and Counsel for the House Energy and Commerce Committee and then as a Professional Staff Member, the Majority and then the Minority Clerk for the House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee on Appropriations, where I had the honor of working closely with him.

As clerk for the Subcommittee, Mr. Cook oversaw appropriations for the Department of Energy, the Civil Works programs of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as a number of related agencies. In this role, he oversaw appropriations and conducted oversight of these programs and worked diligently to uphold the interest of the taxpayer to ensure that our taxpayer dollars were spent efficiently and effectively. I was a frequent beneficiary of his guidance and expertise, as I know were the Chairman, Ranking Member and the other members of the Subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, I believe that we owe much of our effectiveness as Members to the hard work and dedication of the staff. Kevin Cook exemplifies the highest ideals of public service and served the Committee and the federal government with honor, integrity and enthusiasm. We will miss his expertise and counsel greatly—his knowledge and understanding of the issues at hand will be difficult to match. Thank you, Kevin, for your many years of service to the federal government, the United States Congress and our nation.

RESTORE BALANCE TO TAX
TREATMENT OF CHARITABLE
VEHICLE DONATIONS**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, in 2004, the Congress enacted changes in the federal tax code intended to address real and perceived abuses related to charitable donations of vehicles. Those changes, while well-intended, have had unanticipated and serious consequences. Over the last four years, charitable vehicle donations have plummeted. The steep decrease in revenue has forced many charities—in my state and across the country—to reduce services to their beneficiaries.

The adverse impact on charities is especially alarming in the context of the recession currently gripping the nation. The economic downturn has exacerbated demand for charitable services. But the changes enacted in 2004 are strangling the charitable contributions on which those services depend.

I have introduced legislation to refine those changes in ways that restore better balance to this provision of the tax code and fulfill the original intent of Congress: to promote charitable donations. Every car and truck donated to charity, moreover, would help stimulate sales of new automobiles—at a fraction of the per-transaction cost of any auto bailout proposal.

Before 2005, a taxpayer could deduct the fair market value (FMV) of vehicles donated to charity. Under Section 170 of Title 26 of the U.S. Code, a donor could claim the FMV as

determined by well-established used car pricing guides, as long as the FMV was under \$5000. However, there was concern that some taxpayers were gaming the system by claiming excessive deductions, and that there was insufficient IRS oversight to detect or police these problems.

In its FY2005 budget request, the Administration proposed reforming the rules governing vehicle donations by allowing a deduction only if the taxpayer obtained a qualified appraisal for the vehicle. However, the Congress rejected that proposal and went much further. The tax code changes included in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-357) limited deductions over \$500 to the actual proceeds of sale of the vehicle by the charity—regardless of appraised value. Only if the charity actually keeps and uses the car (rather than sells it for the resulting revenue) can the donor deduct its FMV.

The rules took effect for tax year 2005. Today, a taxpayer with an older used car in poor condition can call many charities nationwide to have the vehicle towed at no cost and then claim a \$500 deduction. However, a taxpayer with a newer-model car in good condition has no idea what deduction will be allowed until the vehicle is actually sold. That sale may not occur until months later, forcing the donor to roll the dice on the final deduction amount.

During congressional debate, proponents argued that the changes would not add new burdens on vehicle donors or adversely impact charitable giving. To the contrary, evidence abounds that the changes have seriously disrupted charitable giving and forced many charities to curtail services to low-income beneficiaries.

Two recent government reports have concluded that charitable vehicle donations have dropped significantly since federal tax law changed four years ago. In March 2008, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of 10 national charities over the two years after the law changed found that vehicle donations had dropped by 39 percent and that the resulting charitable revenues decreased by 25 percent. In May 2008, the Internal Revenue Service documented that the number of vehicles donated in 2005, the first year after the rules changed, decreased by 67 percent and that their value fell by over 80 percent.

To feel informed enough to decide whether to donate a vehicle, taxpayers need a reasonable degree of certainty about the resulting deduction. Otherwise, alternatives such as a private sale or dealer trade-in become more attractive. This is clearly not what the Congress intended.

The objective of the original 1986 car donation provision in the federal tax code was to encourage charitable donations and to help charities develop new ways to generate contributions. The 2004 amendments have undermined that goal without improving IRS enforcement. As a result, charities and their beneficiaries are suffering.

The change has affected not only the number of donations, but also the quality of donated vehicles. News articles from across the country reflect plummeting donation rates and the precipitous decline in revenue of non-profit community organizations. The news coverage itself has exacerbated the problem. Potential donors concerned about the changes are discouraged further by the perception of the new burdens associated with the amended rules.

Charities that had operated successful vehicle donation programs, either independently or through third-party fundraisers, have been hit hard. Those unable to cover overhead costs have eliminated vehicle donation programs and resolved to forego the resulting revenue stream. It appears that no charities have initiated or expanded vehicle donation programs over the past two years.

Contrary to reassurances offered during the congressional debate, the tax law changes constituted a classic example of the baby being thrown out with the bathwater. This overreach has had serious ramifications for social services provided by non-profit groups across the country. Modest tax incentives are critical to sustaining charitable contributions, including in-kind gifts. The decline in vehicle donations since 2004 could be addressed by minor legislative refinements that would also address potential abuses and buttress IRS enforcement.

Following are the text and technical analysis of my proposed legislation, which I view as a starting point for new congressional debate on this important issue.

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote charitable donations of qualified vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED VEHICLE DONATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph 12 of subsection (f) of section 170 of title 26 (relating to disallowance of deduction in certain cases and special rules), as amended by this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(12) CONTRIBUTIONS OF USED MOTOR VEHICLES, BOATS, AND AIRPLANES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a contribution of a qualified vehicle paragraph (8) shall not apply and no deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) for such contribution unless the taxpayer substantiates the contribution by a contemporaneous written acknowledgement of the contribution by the donee organization that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B) and includes the acknowledgement with the taxpayer’s return of tax which includes the deduction.

“(B) CONTENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.—An acknowledgement meets the requirements of this subparagraph if it includes the following information:

“(i) The name and taxpayer identification number of the donor.

“(ii) The vehicle identification number or similar number.

“(iii) In the case of a qualified vehicle that is not sold by the organization

“(I) a certification of the intended use or material improvement of the vehicle and the intended duration of such use, and

“(II) a certification that the vehicle would not be transferred in exchange for money, other property, or services before completion of such use or improvement, and

“(iv) In the case of any qualified vehicle the claimed value of which does not exceed \$2500—

“(I) the fair market value of the vehicle as determine in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary,

“(II) a statement that the deductible amount may not exceed the fair market value of the vehicle, and

“(III) if the organization sells the vehicle without any significant intervening use or material improvement a certification that the vehicle was sold in an arm’s length transaction between unrelated parties.

“(v) In the case of any qualified vehicle the claimed value of which exceeds \$2500—

“(I) a qualified appraisal as defined in (E) of paragraph (11) of this section,

“(II) a statement that the deductible amount may not exceed the appraised value of the vehicle, and

“(III) if the organization sells the vehicle without any significant intervening use or material improvement a certification that the vehicle was sold in an arm’s length transaction between unrelated parties.

“(C) CONTEMPORANEOUS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an acknowledgement shall be considered to be contemporaneous if the donee organization provides it within 30 days of the contribution of the qualified vehicle.

“(D) INFORMATION TO SECRETARY.—A donee organization required to provide an acknowledgement under this paragraph shall provide to the Secretary the information contained in the acknowledgement. Such information shall be provided at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

“(E) QUALIFIED VEHICLE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualified vehicle’ means any—

“(i) motor vehicle manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways,

“(ii) boat, or

“(iii) airplane.

Such term shall not include any property which is described in section 1221(a)(1).

“(F) REGULATIONS OR OTHER GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.”

(b) PENALTY FOR FRAUDULENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 (relating to assessable penalties), as amended by this Act, is amended by inserting after section 6719 the following new section:

“SEC. 6720. FRAUDULENT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DONATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES, BOATS, AND AIRPLANES.

“Any donee organization required under section 170(f)(12)(A) to furnish a contemporaneous written acknowledgment to a donor which knowingly furnishes a false or fraudulent acknowledgment, or which knowingly fails to furnish such acknowledgment in the manner, at the time, and showing the information required under section 170(f)(12), or regulations prescribed thereunder, shall for each such act, or for each such failure, be subject to a penalty equal to—

“(1) the product of the highest rate of tax specified in section 1 and the claimed value of the vehicle, or

“(2) \$5,000.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68, as amended by this Act, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6719 the following new item:

“Sec. 6720. Fraudulent acknowledgments with respect to donations of motor vehicles, boats, and airplanes.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 31, 2006.

IN HONOR OF JOHN TSUKASA
TANIMURA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great American that you may have never heard of. John Tsukasa

Tanimura, known to all as Johnny, recently passed away at the age of eighty-eight. He was a farmer’s farmer. As one of the founders of the Tanimura & Antle produce company, he helped build it into the nation’s largest private lettuce producer. So while you may have never heard of Johnny Tanimura, I can guarantee that every member of this House has eaten something that Johnny and his family grew. As an integral part of the Salinas Valley’s agricultural and cultural fabric, he will be missed tremendously. However, the legacy that he planted and nurtured will produce a crop for generations to come.

Born November 21, 1920 in San Juan Bautista, California to Eijiro Kimoto and Yukino Tanimura, he was the sixth of 13 children in a farming family. Johnny graduated from Salinas High School and served in the Army as a guard in Germany, while his family was interned in Poston, Arizona, during World War II.

After relocating to Gilroy, Johnny along with his siblings rebuilt their living in the farming business with harvesting jobs. Through hard work, Johnny, his brothers and their families commenced a farming enterprise that grew from the seeds of love, respect and cooperation. The Tanimura family created ties with Bud Antle and his family in 1948, and the two families jointly established the formation of Tanimura & Antle in 1982, a successful and dynamic family farming enterprise in the Salinas Valley.

His dedication to the lettuce farming was tireless, as he worked throughout his life without ever retiring. He and his brothers were an ever present sight in their ubiquitous white pickup inspecting and tending to their various ranches up and down the Salinas Valley. Even when he was unable to get around without a walker or wheelchair, he had someone take him into the fields multiple days a week to make sure the farming went smoothly.

He is survived by his wife, Sakako (Sachi); daughters Jeannie, Susan and June Tanimura; grandchildren Brian Cobb and Jennifer Caro; great grandchildren Desiree and Mateo Caro, Draven Cobb, Jake Esqueda and MacKenzie Wright; brothers and sisters-in-law, George and Masaye Tanimura, and Tommy and Hisako Tanimura; sister-in-law, Fumiko Tanimura, wife of his late brother Charles (Charlie); and sisters Alice Sato, Rose Yuki and Betty Furisho.

Madam Speaker, Johnny Tanimura’s life was filled with impactful accomplishments. He leaves behind a footprint on the agricultural business of the Salinas Valley through hard work and a loving and dedicated heart, and touched the lives of those around him. I am certain I speak for the entire House when I extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical condition. As a result, I missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Yea" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res 230, a bill Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo (Rollcall No. 229); and

"Yea" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res 111, a bill Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel (Rollcall No. 230).

ON THE ENDORSEMENT OF "ONE SECOND AFTER" BY WILLIAM R. FORSTCHEN

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring up the book *One Second After*, which was written by historian and novelist William R. Forstchen. It lays out a fact-based scenario of what life would be like after an EMP attack. I think that the American people should read this book. It tells the story of a ballistic missile EMP attack on our country. The weapon was launched from a ship off our shore, and then the ship was sunk so that there were no fingerprints. It was launched about 300 miles high over Nebraska, and it shut down our infrastructure country-wide. This book is a realistic assessment of what a really robust EMP lay-down could do to our country.

As a scientist and engineer now serving my 17th year on the House Armed Services Committee, I have studied the threat of EMP with the world's experts and it is real. I find it very disturbing that EMP is well understood and its capability is actively pursued by America's potential foes, but it is virtually unknown to the American public. Imagine a world where the only person you could talk to is the person next to you, the only way you could go anywhere is to walk and the electronic grid is destroyed. This is only the beginning of the impact from an EMP attack.

Glen Reynolds, who is a law professor at the University of Tennessee, a contributing editor at *Popular Mechanics*, and the author of various law review articles, writes as the editor of *Instapundit.com* how much he enjoyed the book and how he hopes that this book will draw attention to the threat of an EMP. I want to take this opportunity to share it with all of my colleagues.

"So I finished William Forstchen *One Second After*, and it's pretty good—sort of an *Alas, Babylon* for the 21st Century. Forstchen hopes to attract attention to the danger of an EMP attack, and I hope he does. I'm somewhat less positive about whether that will produce any actual, useful preparation."

HONORING DETECTIVE JEFFREY K. SWINDOL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Detective Jeffrey Swindol for being selected as the Bartlett Police Department's 2008 Officer of the Year.

Since joining the Bartlett Police Department in 1998, Detective Swindol has made an immediate impact in a police force through his professionalism and loyalty to the Bartlett community. It is through Detective Swindol's chosen career path that is a testament of the values that were instilled in him by his parents and family members. Detective Swindol displays his leadership that is expected during investigations for illegal sales, distribution of narcotics as well as other substances.

On April 1, 2007, Detective Swindol was promoted and began utilizing his talents on the Bartlett Police Department's Narcotic Unit. Detective Swindol has displayed his ability to adapt, overcome obstacles, and thrive under pressure. His dedication and diligent work with the unit even led to the seizure of \$62,000.00 cash as well as the suspect. Detective Swindol was an integral part in this investigation, which deserves the credit for one of the largest cash seizures in the department's history. I can proudly say that all of this hard work paid off. I commend Detective Swindol for his exemplary example of dedication and service. I have no doubt that Detective Swindol's hard work has improved the lives of everyone that calls the City of Bartlett their home.

Please join me in honoring Jeffrey Swindol and wishing him and his family the best on this well-deserved award.

IN MEMORIAM: CORRINE CONTE

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Corrine Louise Conte, a beloved neighbor and community member in western Massachusetts and Washington, DC.

Corrine was a woman of many talents. A native of Pittsfield, she was a star swimmer at Pittsfield High School, and she later became an accomplished pilot. Once, while flying near her home, her plane's engine failed, but she steered the descending plane into an open field and escaped with only a fractured rib, an injury she dismissed as trifling.

During World War II, Corrine served as a nurse in the Navy, where she met her future husband, the late, great Congressman Silvio O. Conte. The couple married after the war, and Corrine continued to serve as a nurse while raising their four children. When Silvio was elected to the House of Representatives, she moved their family to Bethesda, Maryland, where she became a successful real estate agent.

Ever-welcoming, Corrine opened her family's home in Bethesda to ambassadors and politicians, regardless of political party. Her gatherings were known for being intimate and down-to-earth. When a Russian delegation once came to dinner, they were surprised to find that Corrine had done all the cooking herself.

She was a friend to several Presidents, meeting each Chief Executive from Dwight Eisenhower to George H.W. Bush, and even dancing with Lyndon Johnson at his inaugural ball. True to form, she made all of her White House gowns herself, working from a sewing table in her basement. In the late 1980s, she

served on President Bush's Special Committee on Mental Health.

Despite remarkable talents and powerful friends, Corrine never lost touch with her community or shrank from the rigors of public service. The phone number to her family's Pittsfield home was listed publicly, and, during the three decades her husband served in Congress, she fielded calls from constituents and often followed up on requests herself. She was an active campaigner, regularly putting in long days on the campaign trail, and a favorite with voters, who appreciated her practicality and command of the issues. After her husband's death in 1991, she dedicated herself to preserving his extensive and important legacy.

Away from the public eye, Corrine was known to be a loving mother and a woman of great faith. She was also a life-long Boston Red Sox fan and reportedly was elated to see her team finally reverse the "Curse of Bambino" by sweeping the World Series in 2004.

Corrine Conte's strength, warmth and charm were legendary. The friends she made and the people she touched throughout her remarkable life will miss her dearly.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. I am very pleased that leadership has brought this important consumer protection legislation to the floor today.

As we all know, having a credit card account is essential to building the credit history needed to buy a home or obtain a loan. Given the necessity of having good credit, I am very concerned that in recent years, credit card companies have established policies which result in limiting the control that individuals have over their financial decisions. This inappropriate level of control has serious implications for people's lives and their financial security.

One common practice is that a credit card company will raise interest rates without warning. When a credit card holder tries to opt out, they realize they are locked into a plan that differs vastly from what they originally signed up for. These types of abuses against consumers have even more serious implications in these trying economic times, in that families may not be able to meet credit obligations that were not expected or planned.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights ensures that credit cardholders are protected from unfair and confusing credit card gimmicks that result in their being required to pay more than what they should owe to the credit card companies.

The bill protects cardholders against arbitrary interest rate increases, empowers them to set limits on their credit and requires card companies to fairly credit and allocate payments. It also prohibits charging fees just to

pay a bill by phone or issuing credits cards to minors.

These new, common-sense protections will empower consumers and prevent the credit card industry from continuing to reap excessive profits from often unsuspecting customers.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical consumer protection measure, and I urge the Senate to act on this measure so that it can be quickly signed into law.

CONGRATULATING SAUNDERS
YACHTWORKS ON ITS 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Saunders Yachtworks with facilities in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama, on its 50th anniversary.

In 1959, the Saunders Engine & Equipment Company, Inc. was founded by Andrew Saunders Sr. in Mobile, and today members of the second and third generation represent the majority of the company's ownership. The company's "can do" attitude has set it apart as a premier marine service provider along the central Gulf Coast.

In 1993, Saunders Yachtworks opened as a mechanical service facility in Orange Beach, and in 2007, Saunders Yachtworks became the sole focus of the corporation. This year, the company expanded its operations to Gulf Shores with the opening of its new corporate headquarters and mechanical service shop.

This new facility features one of the largest boat lifts on the central Gulf Coast allowing Saunders to work on boats up to 115 feet. There is no doubt this new expansion will bring yachters from around the world to Alabama's Gulf Coast.

Throughout its 50 years of operations, the company has received numerous awards and accolades. In 1990, Saunders Engine & Equipment was named "Small Business of the Year" by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. Earlier this year, Saunders Yachtworks was named Boatyard of the Year by the American Boat Builders and Repairers Association. This award is given to the boatyard that "demonstrates excellence in all facets of business through commitment to customer service, quality management and positive vendor and employee relations."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Saunders Yachtworks on its 50th anniversary and for being recognized as the Boatyard of the Year. I know John Fitzgerald, the company president, Andrew Saunders Jr., chairman of the board, along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Saunders Yachtworks for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER CLARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual who possesses the talent, athleticism and dedication of an Olympic athlete. University of Michigan Sophomore Tyler Clary is turning heads and breaking records in the swimming world; and he's ready for the next step—the Olympics. Tyler grew up in Riverside, California, where his parents still reside. Our entire community is very proud of this young man and his accomplishments.

Tyler graduated from Poly High School in 2007 where he was a CIF champion in swimming. Tyler is now flourishing at the University of Michigan. He recently captured his first NCAA title and his time of 3:35.98 broke the American Record of 14-time Olympian gold medalists Michael Phelps by 28 hundredths of a second. Tyler received a congratulatory text message from Michael Phelps, who Tyler trained with at Michigan. The next night Tyler captured the 200-yard backstroke title and broke another NCAA record of Olympian gold medalists Ryan Lochte.

Tyler's coaches are not only impressed by his pure athleticism but by his great attitude. A recruiting coach from Cal said that he knew Tyler "was going to be one of the greats." Tyler intends to prove that correct as he sets his sights on the 2012 Olympics. He was just shy of making the cut for the 2008 Olympics and Tyler doesn't intend to let anything get in his way the next time around. He has begun preparation for this year's world championships, which will be held this summer in Rome.

Tyler is also a five-time All American Athlete, the 2009 Swimmer of the Year, the 2009 Big Ten (Conference) Swimmer of the Year, and holds the University of Michigan's records in the 200 Individual Medley (IM), 400 IM, 200 Backstroke and 800 Free Relay. Tyler was the 2006 Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) World Youth Top Male Performer. In 2007, Tyler was the Silver Medalist in the 200 Backstroke at the Pan American Games.

Madam Speaker, it is a rare honor to be able to speak about an athlete who is expected to break records and possibly become a future Olympic champion. Tyler Clary has everything it takes and I believe that three years from now I will be on the House floor congratulating Tyler on a successful return from the 2012 Summer Olympics being hosted in London. Tyler exemplifies the best of our future generations and I look forward to watching him in the years to come.

FREE MEDIA UNDER PRESSURE IN
THE OSCE REGION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I can attest to the fact that freedom of the press is only a cherished dream for many today in

the OSCE region. Vibrant independent media are an essential element of any democracy. Leaders the world over who are determined to remain in office by any means necessary understand perfectly the power of the press. That is precisely why they and their associates strive so vigorously to control the media. Indeed, there are a variety of means commonly used by those attempting to harass or intimidate journalists.

Physical attacks on journalists have become commonplace in many part of the OSCE region along with police raids, spurious court cases, arrests, and forcible psychiatric hospitalization. In recent days those attacked included Argishti Kivirian, editor of the independent news Web site Armenia Today, Vyacheslav Yaroshenko, editor of Corruption and Crime, a weekly in the southwestern Russian city of Rostov-na-Donu, and Anastasia Akopyan, a young journalist assaulted following circulation of an interview she did with an opposition mayoral candidate in the Russian city of Sochi.

The situation in several other OSCE countries remains mixed. While the Belarusian regime allowed two independent newspapers to distribute through state-controlled outlets, the overall media environment remains repressive. Independent journalists continue to be harassed. A new media law entered into force in February contains provisions that toughen state control over the media as the Belarusian government seeks to maintain a virtual monopoly over the country's information space, especially television. In Armenia, the independent A1+ television station, forced off the air by the authorities, remains silent despite a ruling on the case by the European Court of Human Rights nearly a year ago. While the release of some imprisoned journalists in Azerbaijan is a positive development, the authorities have yet to repeal criminal defamation provisions. In Georgia, the government should take decisive action on promised reforms on media liberalization.

In the Balkans, media outlets are commonly targeted for harassment and occasional violence. In Serbia, several journalists were reportedly attacked earlier this year by a radical group organizing a commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of NATO bombing. Investigative media in Kosovo have come under pressure for their attempts to expose corruption. Independent media in Montenegro are frequently the target of trumped-up defamation and libel charges. In Albania, the magazine Tema was reportedly forced to cease operations under government pressure, while TV News 24 was apparently assessed a large fine for ridiculing another station's promotion of the country's prime minister. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the murder of Serbian journalist and editor, Slavko Curuvija, who testified before the Helsinki Commission shortly before his death, a case which authorities have yet to resolve.

Meanwhile, in Kazakhstan, the opposition weekly Taszharghan has reportedly been forced to cease publication following the imposition of a \$200,000 fine for damaging the honor and dignity of a member of the Kazakh parliament. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least half a dozen independent outlets and their staffers faced more than 60 such defamation lawsuits in 2008 alone, with many involving claims by senior government officials.

Madam Speaker, nearly two decades after the breakup of the U.S.S.R., Soviet-era censorship survives in places like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, which, not coincidentally, ban all political opposition.

THE U.S.-CHINA COMPETITIVENESS
AGENDA OF 2009

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join my good friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), in unveiling the bipartisan U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda of 2009. This agenda includes four legislative priorities to expand America's influence in China and increase American competitiveness in the global marketplace.

As co-chairs of the bipartisan House U.S.-China Working Group, we are working in Congress to elevate the sophistication of our debate on U.S.-China issues. The U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda provides Congress with a constructive legislative package to expand U.S. engagement with China while supporting key domestic and foreign policy objectives.

Along with two other Working Group members, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS (D-Calif.) and Congressman STEVE ISRAEL (D-N.Y.), we are introducing bipartisan legislation to expand America's diplomatic infrastructure in China, boost support to small- and medium-sized businesses exporting to the China market, increase funds for domestic Chinese language instruction and build new cooperative energy ties between the U.S. and China.

The U.S. has one embassy and five consulates in China, leaving more than 200 cities with a population greater than one million people with little to no American representation. Additionally, while 60 percent of U.S. exports go to the Asia-Pacific market, the U.S. contributes 100 times more dollars to Europe's Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development than to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

My legislation, the U.S.-China Diplomatic Expansion Act of 2009, authorizes the construction of a new consulate in Fuzhou and 10 smaller diplomatic posts in cities with more than a million people. The bill triples funding for public diplomacy, boosts funding for a range of language, student and teacher exchange programs, increases funding for rule of law initiatives and more than triples the U.S. contribution to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

If we are serious about expanding export promotion services, defending intellectual property rights, improving consumer product safety and enhancing economic competitiveness, we need a diplomatic infrastructure in China that reflects those priorities.

I am proud to co-sponsor three other bipartisan bills in the U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda, including Mr. LARSEN's U.S.-China Market Engagement and Export Promotion Act of 2009, Ms. DAVIS's U.S.-Chinese Language Engagement Act of 2009 and Mr. ISRAEL's U.S.-China Energy Cooperation Act of 2009.

Mr. LARSEN's bill would help states establish export promotion offices in China and create a

new China Market Advocate program at U.S. Export Assistance Centers around the nation. The bill provides assistance to small businesses for China trade missions and authorizes grants for Chinese business education programs.

I strongly support the U.S.-China Market Engagement and Export Promotion Act because we need innovative programs that support our small business exports and arm them with the tools they need to succeed in China.

Roughly 200 million students are learning English in China today. By contrast, only about 50,000 primary and secondary school students study Chinese in America. Ms. DAVIS's bill increases Chinese cultural studies and language acquisition for elementary, high school and college-age students. Grants would be available to fund university joint venture programs, virtual cultural exchanges with Chinese schools and intensive summer language instruction programs.

We have more than just a trade deficit with China—we also have a knowledge deficit. That is why I strongly support the U.S.-Chinese Language Engagement Act. We need additional funding for domestic Chinese language programs, educational exchanges and Chinese teacher exchanges to fix this knowledge imbalance.

To create green jobs in America and fight global climate change, we must expand energy cooperation between the U.S. and China. Mr. ISRAEL's bill authorizes new grants to fund U.S.-China energy and climate change education programs, along with joint research and development of carbon capture, sequestration technology, improved energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources.

In my view, China's connections to unstable energy markets like Iran, Sudan and Venezuela could set a foreign policy collision course with the United States. I strongly support the U.S.-China Energy Cooperation Act. To protect our environment and avoid future conflict, we need creative programs to boost U.S.-China energy cooperation.

I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work on this bipartisan agenda. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor all four bills and move quickly to enact this legislation into law.

INTRODUCTION OF U.S.-CHINA
LANGUAGE ENGAGEMENT ACT
OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act of 2009—a bill to close the knowledge deficit when it comes to our relationship with China.

It is little news to anyone that China is on the rise. With a population of over 1.3 billion people and the second largest economy in the world when measured by domestic purchasing power parity, China is poised to become a world power, economically, diplomatically, and militarily.

Yet at a time when China's influence on the world stage is increasing, our national understanding of the "Middle Kingdom" has not kept pace.

While an estimated 200 million Chinese school children are studying our language and culture, less than 50,000 American elementary and secondary students are studying Chinese.

The goal of the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act is to provide our schools with the resources they need to offer Chinese language instruction and cultural studies classes.

This important legislation would instruct the Department of Education to offer competitive grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to develop and implement innovative Chinese language and cultural studies programs.

LEAs, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, may use grant funds to carry out intensive summer Chinese language instruction, link bilingual Chinese and English speakers with students and conduct virtual cultural exchanges with educational institutions in China.

This bill is part of a broader legislative package seeking to improve our competitive edge and relationship with China.

Some may view China's resurgence as a threat. But today, Madam Speaker, I ask you to turn China's rise into an opportunity for United States citizens.

Through careful diplomacy, I believe China can become not only a competitor but also a partner. But we cannot have this dialogue if we cannot understand the Chinese people.

This is why I come before you today: to ask for your help in ensuring that the lines of communication between the United States and China stay open. Please support the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act and help bridge the language barrier and cross the cultural gap between future generations of Americans and the Chinese.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, and would like to thank Financial Institutions Chairman LUIS GUTIERREZ and Congresswoman MALONEY for their continued dedication and leadership on this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 627. Thanks to this legislation, abusive billing practices will end. No longer will a company be able to harm consumers by engaging in double-cycle billing. No longer will a company be able to harm consumers by applying their payments to the lowest-interest balance. No longer will these companies be able to harm consumers through arbitrary interest rate increases or universal default practices.

This bill also requires—as a result of an amendment I offered at markup—that the Federal Reserve conduct a study of how credit card companies are treating credit lines. Some

companies are reducing the credit lines of consumers based on information such as where they shop—including the type of store and the neighborhood in which it is located. I am also aware that some companies have reduced credit lines based on the identity of the consumer's mortgage lender. This type of behavior is tantamount to redlining.

I hope that the Federal Reserve study contained in this bill will provide the Congress with the information we need to reign in these abusive practices.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to an activity Americans engage in throughout every day—prayer. Today is the National Day of Prayer, an observation established by Congress and President Truman in 1952.

Our Nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, which continue to permeate our daily lives—and need to be preserved. In recent times, these principles and the demonstration of them has come under attack by certain segments of society. From the very beginning of our Nation's history, our Nation's leaders have relied heavily on their faith, a fact that led our Founders to include the constitutional right to freely exercise one's religion in the very beginning of our Bill of Rights. This right is every bit as fundamentally important—and deserving of protection—today as it was in the 18th century.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress called on the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming the Nation, the leaders of our Nation have continued to pray for that wisdom to shape our Nation. We look to God to provide us with the direction to act in accordance with His will, on behalf of the Americans who have sent us here to represent them. The one thing we know for certain is that there's nothing we can't accomplish—here in Congress or anywhere in the world—with God's help and blessing.

HONORING ST. ROSE LADY
WILDCATS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of young ladies from Clinton County, Illinois.

The St. Rose Lady Wildcats volleyball team captured the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association Class S state tournament, defeating the squad from Lick Creek in straight sets. St. Rose swept through the tournament, not losing a single set on the way to the title. They knocked off Ewing in the opener and Centralia Trinity Lutheran in the second round, going on a 15–0 tear to come from behind and win game one.

I want to congratulate coaches Colette Huelsmann and Brian Holtgrave on leading this group of young ladies to this victory. Most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the state champion St. Rose Lady Wildcats: Abby Holtgrave, Amanda Gall, Brooke Buehne, Erika VonBokel, Lauren Willis, Ellie Detmer, Elizabeth Marcus, Lydia Rehkemper, Larissa Jacob, Maddie Timmermann, Avoyanna Kampwerth and Jamie Voss.

These young ladies have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion, and I congratulate them, and wish them all the best for continued success in the classroom and on the court.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FATHER
DAVID FRANCIS FALLON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Father David Francis Fallon, founding Pastor of La Sagrada Familia Parish. His love, kindness and faithful service on behalf of the people of our community will always be remembered, especially in the hearts and memories of those whose lives he impacted the most—the poor and disenfranchised of our society.

Father Fallon was born and raised in Cleveland as the second oldest of thirteen children, where he learned at a young age the significance of family, faith, hard work and connection to community. Following his graduation from Borromeo College, then Saint Mary Seminary, Father Fallon was ordained into the priesthood on May 30, 1970. His first assignment was at Holy Family Parish and later as Associate Pastor at Saint John Bosco Parish. In 1975, Father Fallon was transferred to Saint Clement Parish in Lakewood. He served for two years before joining a mission team in El Salvador, where he brought faith, hope and a sense of security to his parish there.

Though not of Hispanic heritage, Father Fallon became fluent in its customs, language and culture, and he became warmly embraced as a true son of the people of Cleveland's Hispanic community. He celebrated Masses in Spanish, and began bilingual services for young churchgoers. Reflecting a generous heart, joy for life and humble demeanor, Father Fallon easily drew others to him and his leadership became a guiding light that brought people and organizations together. His diplomacy and commitment to community was evident in the 1998 merging of two Hispanic parishes, San Juan Bautista and Cristo Rey, to form La Sagrada Familia parish.

Under the direction of Father Fallon, La Sagrada Familia has risen as a foundation of strength, support and resources for people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds who seek guidance and support. Father Fallon initiated numerous programs, including a food pantry and clothing outlet where individuals and families in need can obtain free food, clothing and furniture. He organized church volunteers to serve the community in social service, employment and education.

Additionally, Father Fallon inspired others to empower themselves and take pride in their community. He was an active attendee and

member of various neighborhood, civic and municipal organizations, and he led numerous efforts in organizing voter registration drives in the Hispanic neighborhood.

Moreover, Father Fallon's commitment to ministering to those who suffered emotional or physical hardships never wavered. He never missed his weekly visits to those who were homebound or those living in the neighboring nursing home. He brought each person the sacrament of communion, a compassionate presence and kind and calming words, comfort, faith and hope to our most vulnerable citizens.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Father David Francis Fallon, whose immeasurable service to others, compassion, faith, and a true belief in community has brought healing, hope and restored faith in all of us. I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Father David Francis Fallon. Though he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him well, Father Fallon's compassionate service to others will continue to serve as an example and as a source of hope at La Sagrada Familia parish

MAI YANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mai Yang who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mai Yang is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mai Yang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Mai Yang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-
PREDATORY LENDING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1728) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

I want to thank Mr. BRAD MILLER and Mr. MEL WATT for sponsoring this important legislation and for being a champion for consumers and borrowers. I also want to thank Chairman FRANK for his commitment to finally bringing real reform to our mortgage markets and ending predatory lending and misleading and abusive lending practices.

I served for 8 years on the House Financial Services Committee with my colleagues and we repeatedly warned the, then majority, Republicans, the Bush Administration, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve about the need for stronger oversight and critical reforms that would end the pattern and practice of predatory lending.

Our warnings fell on deaf ears.

They chose to allow kickback schemes like yield spread premiums which put the mortgage lender's financial incentives in direct conflict with the interests of the consumers they are supposed to serve.

They chose to allow the reprehensible act of "steering" lower income, senior and minority borrowers into higher rate sub-prime and alt-a loans than they qualify for.

They chose to blindly trust financial institutions to "regulate themselves".

And we and our entire nation know where that got us.

It is long past time that we bring sound, reasonable regulation and oversight to our mortgage markets.

And this bill will do that.

I am also very pleased that this bill will protect renters and tenants who have been silently suffering due to the wave of foreclosures.

Too many renters who have paid their rent on time have been finding out for the first time that the property they live in is being foreclosed when the sheriff delivers an eviction notice.

Innocent tenants should be protected and let me thank Mr. ELLISON, MR. MILLER, MR. WATT and Mr. FRANK for acting on behalf of innocent renters.

I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1728.

DR. MELINDA O'ROURKE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Melinda O'Rourke who has received the Golden Ethics in Business award. Dr. Melinda O'Rourke is an ophthalmologist and Vision Health International volunteer and received this award because of her sense of global and local volunteerism and dedication to bettering the lives of those from all social classes and nations through health care.

The devotion demonstrated by Dr. Melinda O'Rourke directly benefits her community and many throughout the world, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. She serves as a leader who inspires those around her to continually strive for better health care, both for those who can afford it and for those who cannot.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Dr. Melinda O'Rourke for winning the

Golden Ethics in Business award. I have no doubt she will continue to exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her volunteer career to all future undertakings.

MAY: WORLD TRADE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, May is World Trade Month, and events around the country will highlight the vital role that trade plays in creating jobs and growing our economy.

World Trade Month is the perfect reminder of the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long. As Americans confront economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance our trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama, Colombia, and Korea to remain on hold while Europe, China, and others continue to knock down trade barriers and become more competitive in the global economy.

Opening new global markets gives employers incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my State of Washington.

Let's recognize World Trade Month by implementing these trade agreements and pursuing these proven measures of job creation at a time when they are badly needed.

COST/PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, a former chemical manufacturing site being cleaned up by the U.S. Army near Denver, CO. The Cost/Productivity Improvement Program is an innovative effort instituted by the Army and Shell Oil Company, who are responsible for the cleanup of the site. The Program encourages employees to be proactive in improving the efficiency, safety, and quality of the transition of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal into a premier urban national wildlife refuge.

Construction and fieldwork are due to be completed in 2010, one year ahead of schedule and within budget. This achievement is due in no small part to cost savings suggestions by employees that were implemented through the Cost/Productivity Program under the leadership of the Army, Shell and their contractors. Not only has the program resulted in a savings of \$67 million dollars over 10 years, with \$4.5 million saved last year alone, it is an innovate example of a successful public-private partnership. The program has resulted in the promotion of "green" practices, including recycling and native vegetation re-seeding.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program and the Army, Shell and their employees and contractors at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. I have no doubt this program will continue to improve practices, while continuing to inspire employees and workers as they complete the environmental restoration and transformation of the site into a national wildlife refuge for generations of Americans to enjoy.

SUPPORT FOR THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009 IN HONOR OF DR. XIANGZHONG "JERRY" YANG

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare my support for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2009. I intend to cast this vote in honor of the efforts of Dr. Xiangzhong "Jerry" Yang, a pioneer in cloning and stem cell research, who died of cancer three weeks ago at the age of 49. Dr. Yang left a great legacy of hard work, dedication, and success on the front lines of stem cell research. His work has led to a series of breakthroughs that have taken us closer to the dream of cloning stem cells to match an individual and cure the individual's disease, a breakthrough that would bring hope to countless men, women, and children who are suffering from otherwise untreatable illnesses.

The Yang laboratory, stationed at the University of Connecticut, is the world's leading laboratory in animal cloning and stem cell technology. Dr. Yang and his team provided critical insights into the previously mysterious mechanisms of how germ cells are programmed to form embryos, and how these embryos form distinct types of tissue. He was instrumental in working with then-Connecticut State Senator CHRIS MURPHY (now my colleague Representative MURPHY) to establish the Connecticut State Stem Cell Research Program, one of the very few such programs in the Nation. Because of the program's existence, Connecticut was one of the few states that would fund human embryonic stem cell research that could not be funded by the Federal Government. Just this year, the University of Connecticut announced the derivation of two new human embryonic stem cell lines as a result of these research funds. This breakthrough, along with many others, would not have happened without Jerry's influence and guidance.

Dr. Yang's ultimate dream to tailor stem cell cloning to specific people, organs, and diseases has not yet been realized, but with the help of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, we may yet reach the world he envisioned: One in which organ damage from cancer, heart attacks, spinal disorders, or any other conceivable illness can be reversed with stem cell therapy. I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in applauding the work of Dr. Yang: he will be sorely missed, but the important work he has done deserves all the recognition and support this body can offer.

KWYN PAVEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kwyn Pavey who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kwyn Pavey is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kwyn Pavey is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kwyn Pavey for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF RECOMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to reintroduce my resolution urging the United States to ratify and implement certain fundamental international conventions.

This resolution is supported by a variety of organizations including Free the Slaves, Human Rights Watch, AFL-CIO, Amnesty International USA, Global Rights, Citizens for Global Solutions, Oxfam America, the National Alliance of HUD Tenants, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Justice and Human Rights.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Universal Rights. It is the foundation of the current human rights movement. Americans, led by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, helped craft this historic convention, and next week, the United States will again seek a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Last week, I joined my colleagues to protest the genocide in Darfur at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. Three years ago, many of us were arrested doing the same thing; three years later, millions continue to suffer.

Our case against this and other humanitarian crises would be so much stronger if the United States had ratified the U.N. Conventions that address the rights of women, children, and forced disappearance. How can we ask for our global trading partners to respect international labor standards, when we ourselves have not ratified ILO standards on the right to organize and bargain collectively, or against forced child labor, or age discrimination? How can we fight poverty and homeless-

ness if we do not support UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? How can we stand up for civil rights when we do not support hemispheric efforts to recognize historic struggles of marginalized communities?

Our country was founded on the principles of civil and human rights. Many, many people—men, women, and even children—have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. Madam Speaker, this is a time of war. This is a time when the global economy is struggling. This is a time when access to food, water, shelter, and resources impacts every person on this planet. It is during periods like these when it is most important to protect our values and our commitment to universal human and civil rights.

Simply said, this resolution is our recommitment to our own American principles and to our neighbors and friends around the world. We must always be vigilant. We must be vocal. But we must remember—actions speak louder than words.

LEAH M. VARNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leah M. Varnell who has received the Golden Ethics in Business award. Leah Varnell is the executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties and received this award because of her vision, bravery, and sense of social responsibility to those children who face the worst of all situations.

The dedication demonstrated by Leah Varnell directly benefits her community, and is exemplary of high personal and professional standards. She serves as a leader who inspires those around her to continually strive for a safer environment for America's children.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Leah Varnell for winning the Golden Ethics in Business award. I have no doubt she will continue to exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her career to all future undertakings.

INTRODUCING THE FAIR TREATMENT FOR METAL IMPLANTEES ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I would like to introduce the "Fair Treatment for Metal Implants Act", which creates a program within the Department of Homeland Security that incorporates biometric technology or other applicable technologies to verify the identity of an individual who has a metal implant, so as to limit disruptions for such individuals while traveling by air transportation, in a manner consistent with aviation security.

According to the Joint Implant Surgery & Research Foundation, there are approximately 500,000 total hip and knee replacements per-

formed in the United States each year. An estimated 11 million people in the United States have a medical implant and this number is growing as the population receiving implants increases.

In a 2007 study, researchers at the Harvard Medical School found that 100 percent of hip replacements and 90 percent of knee replacements cause commercial airport metal detectors to alert. Whenever a passenger alarms the walk-through metal detector, additional screening must be conducted to locate and resolve the source of hand-held metal detector and, first, conducts a pat-down inspection of any area that alarms; then conducts a whole-body pat-down. This additional screening consumes an average five minutes more of a passenger's time at security checkpoints.

This excess screening of metal implantees is not an efficient use of a TSO's time, which could be more efficiently used elsewhere. H.R. _____ would develop a travel credential or system that incorporates biometric or other applicable technologies to verify the identity of an individual who has a metal implant to ensure that such individuals can travel by air with greater ease, consistent with current security regulations. The bill would require the program to include verification of the individual with a metal implant, resolution for false matches and non-matches, determination of travel credential or system, and validation of a credential or system issued to an individual under the program that is lost, stolen, or no longer authorized for use.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. Thompson, for introducing this legislation with me. H.R. _____, the "Fair Treatment for Metal Implants Act", will direct more resources to secure our skies and help metal implantees negotiate through airport security.

KRISTIAN YEAGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kristian Yeager who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kristian Yeager is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kristian Yeager is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kristian Yeager for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING ALICE T. MOSINIAK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing from this life of Alice T. Mosiniak, the founder of Toledo Seagate Food Bank, which over the years has helped countless people in need. Alice was Toledo office director in the 1970s of the National Association for Human Development, which trained senior citizens who were jobless and often alone. "I took it for granted that everyone ate," Mrs. Mosiniak, who lived in South Toledo, told the Toledo Blade in 1993. She asked 50 seniors to bring a lunch to a meeting. "Only two brought a lunch and one of those was a mashed potato sandwich, and the other person brought a bean sandwich. And that's how I found out they were all hungry." She scrounged and bought food for them. "Her heart was compassion and caring for others," said her daughter, Deborah Vas, food bank executive director since 1998. "She just truly believed and taught us you need to care about your neighbors"

The Toledo Seagate Food Bank began in 1980 after Alice saw what seniors ate—or didn't eat. Migrant farm workers in Lucas County were among the first fed, said Virginia Ortega, a member of the Ohio advisory committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. "Her life enhanced the quality of life of many northwest Ohioans in ways many people I don't think even realize," she said.

Mrs. Mosiniak enlisted local officials and business leaders in the project. "She'd tell them exactly what she needed and wanted and say, 'Either you're going to help or you're not.' And who's not going to help a neighbor or friend?" Ms. Debbie Vas said. Added Harvey Savage, Jr.: "When she set her mind on getting something, she was able to get it. We have people who are chronically underemployed, who are always going to need help." Mr. Savage is board president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Kitchen for the Poor, founded by his father, the Rev. Harvey Savage. "She saw it at a time when we were trying to sweep that under the rug."

When I first encountered Alice more than 25 years ago, she was passionately piecing together the elements of what would become the Toledo Seagate Food Bank. Her enthusiasm and deep commitment to those who had fallen on hard times was unforgettable, and infectious. She was indefatigable. Enlist-

ing the most unlikely coalition of supporters—from pugnacious property owners to willing donors to amazed farmers to selfless volunteers and grassroots supporters, from all walks of life—she built a vanguard institution from scratch, one that had never existed before. Year by year, its reputation earned respect and admiration across our region, Ohio, and the nation. Millions of meals, and other household necessities, have been made possible for three decades precisely because this incredible, inspired woman reached beyond herself to help others, at no cost to them. She sought no recognition. So let America acclaim her now and express its gratitude and acclaim for her noble efforts, truly a citizen of extraordinary proportion.

She grew up at Detroit Avenue and Vance Street in Toledo. She attended Libbey High School, the former Harriet Whitney Vocational High School, and the former Mary Manse College. She and her husband, Alphonse "Bill" Mosiniak, formed a company that built houses in South Toledo and Perrysburg. They married May 25, 1945. He died July 8, 1966. Surviving are her daughters, Debbie Vas and Mindy Rapp; son, Douglas; brother, Richard Williams, and six grandchildren.

It is with the deepest admiration that I pay tribute to the exemplary life of this pioneering woman. She dedicated her life in service to her family, friends, and the poor and hungry of our region. May her family be comforted by the loving memories they hold and may Alice Mosiniak be blessed with a loving peace.

IN HONOR OF DELAWARE
GREENWAY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate and pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of Delaware Greenways. Preserving Delaware's scenic corridors and back country roads, getting children and their families out on the greenways, and promoting responsible and environmentally sensitive growth are some of the tenets of Delaware Greenways.

Greenways are linear corridors of open space that can be used for conservation or recreation. They may include stream corridors, abandoned railroad rights of way, scenic highways like Route 52 in Wilmington, greenbelts around cities or towns and riverfront walks like we see today along the Christina River. A

greenway is capable of providing individuals and families an opportunity to experience the outdoors in a safe and enjoyable fashion while also giving them good exercise and educational opportunities close to home.

Programs supported by Delaware Greenways, such as No Child Left Inside, help children at a very early age understand the importance of exercise and provide them with a hands-on opportunity to learn about nature and our community. Trail Days provide families with experiences they will cherish for generations. Many of the projects Delaware Greenways either initiated or supported have had great success. Examples include: Blue Ball Greenway and Barn restoration, East Coast Greenways, Rail-to-trail, Northern Delaware Greenway, Junction & Breakwater Trail, and the Hockessin and Mill Creek Greenway. Each of these projects has helped connect communities and provide thousands of families with a remarkable opportunity to experience the outdoors.

I express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported Delaware Greenways, and to those who have been fortunate enough to utilize these facilities. I hope you will continue to support and use these facilities while enjoying the outdoors.

ECHO VAUGHN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Echo Vaughn who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Echo Vaughn is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Echo Vaughn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Echo Vaughn for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.