

Azerbaijani relations with the United States will surely be negatively affected by this decision. I regret that when President Ilham Aliiev eventually meets President Barack Obama, they will have to spend time discussing why Baku has shut down U.S.-funded radio stations, instead of exploring ways to deepen the relationship between our countries.

The Helsinki Commission intends to examine U.S. international broadcasting in a future hearing and discuss ways of ensuring the continuance of this vital service. Meanwhile, it is my hope that President Aliiev will find a way to keep RFE/RL and VOA on the air.

BCS/UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the University of Utah Football Team deserves to be National Champions. The Running Utes of Utah had a remarkably perfect 13-0 season, the only undefeated team out of the 119 in the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision. They started the season by defeating the perennial powerhouse Michigan Wolverines. They beat the Oregon State Beavers, who one week earlier had beaten the #1-ranked USC Trojans. They went on to beat the TCU Horned Frogs and the BYU Cougars, who were both ranked in the top 15 of the BCS at the time. Finally, in the Sugar Bowl, the University of Utah crushed the University of Alabama, who was ranked #1 in the BCS for much of the season. The Utes were able to turn back the Crimson Tide, but were still wiped out of consideration for the BCS National Championship.

Perhaps the Bowl Championship Series, the so-called BCS, would best be referred to as the Good 'Ol Boys Championship Series. The University of Utah bowled over 13 opponents this year without a single loss. It would be seemingly inappropriate for the Utes to be bowled over by the good 'ol boys off the field. The University of Utah Football Team deserves to be National Champions.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ROBERT H. CHRISTY, JR., CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert H. Christy, Jr., on his impending retirement. He has faithfully and effectively served as the Buncombe County Clerk of Superior Court for the past 18 years and will retire on December 31, 2008.

Since his initial swearing in on September 1, 1990, Bob Christy has overseen the court system during a time of tremendous growth. During that time, his office has grown from 47 employees to 65. Criminal and civil court filings have more than doubled during his tenure. Previously practicing law in the community, Christy's experience as an assistant clerk of

court to J. Ray Ellingburg for 7 years prepared him well for the clerkship.

As Clerk of Court, Christy managed Buncombe County's District Court and Superior Court, an operation that entails approximately \$25 million in annual revenue. Beyond monetary responsibilities, Christy supervised record-keeping in the local courts for all civil actions, special proceedings, court minutes, liens and other actions.

Mr. Christy found opportunity in the clerkship to express his great compassion for the elderly, the bereaved, and the struggling of Buncombe County. Over the past 18 years, the Clerk of Court has handled such delicate matters as juvenile crime, adoption, domestic violence, and issues of wills and estates. Christy operated the clerk's office with an open door policy in which he counseled on legal matters but also strove to alleviate the emotional concerns of those in need.

As a public servant, Christy had a great passion and respect for the office that he held. During his tenure, he served as president of the North Carolina Clerks Association, overseeing the executive committee in decision-making that in turn affected 10,000 clerks in the 100 counties across the state. He served on the Governor's Crime Commission and the boards of the North Carolina Courts Commission and the North Carolina Credit Union. He worked closely with the bar association in the county and is known for having strong relationships with area attorneys.

In his private life as well, he is known for activism and involvement. The Democratic Party in Buncombe County has honored Christy with several awards. He is an active member of Central United Methodist Church. In retirement, Christy will be returning to private legal practice with his long-time friend, Asheville attorney Jack Stewart.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Robert Christy today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD'S SERVICE IN THE U.S. SENATE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, this week, in this Capitol, we are witnessing a convergence of a number of events that will long stand out in our Nation's collective memories. We are on the front edge of a new session of Congress, preparing for a landmark moment in the history of America's presidency. And, at the same time, we are celebrating a major milestone for one of this Nation's most devoted and accomplished public servants—U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

It was 50 years ago, that Senator BYRD, for the first time, took the oath of office to serve in the United States Senate—an oath he has now taken a record-setting nine times.

Yesterday, as numerous Members of the House and Senate raised their own hands and took their own very first oaths, I could not help but think about what it must have been like for our Senior Senator from West Virginia to

watch these new ranks at the start of their own Congressional careers.

I was reminded of my first day of service in this body. I recall being humbled by the responsibility that had been placed in my hands and awed by the auspicious ceremony and the grandeur of this ornate Chamber.

On that first day, I was relieved at the knowledge that I was blessed with the wisdom, the support, and the mentorship of ROBERT C. BYRD. Throughout my career here, he has been a constant source of encouragement and sage advice.

Today, as we embark upon this new session cognizant of the tremendous challenges before us—a struggling economy, two wars, a strapped Federal budget, and growing public need—we can breathe easier knowing that we are all blessed to have the continuing service of ROBERT C. BYRD to steer us through the rocky shoals.

Congratulations to Senator BYRD—our trailblazer, our Leader, our Big Daddy. May he continue to serve the people of West Virginia and the entire Nation for many years to come.

ST. PETERSBURG MAYOR RICK BAKER NAMED ONE OF NATION'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker who last November was named one of Governing magazine's eight public officials of the year.

Now beginning his 8th year as mayor, Rick has brought insurmountable energy and passion to serving the people of St. Petersburg and revitalizing the entire community. His catch phrase is, "Another great day in St. Petersburg," and under his leadership, every day has become another great day for our community.

As the only mayor honored this year, the magazine dubbed Mayor Baker as "Mr. Inclusive" for his work to revitalize the city's economy, improve its parks system, and improve the city's schools.

This is one of many honors Rick's hard work and commitment to public service have earned him and the city. Just last September, General Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance named St. Petersburg one of our Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People.

During ceremonies September 22 at Union Station, the organization cited St. Petersburg for its effort to improve its schools by forming corporate sponsorships. In particular, it said, "St. Petersburg has a strong backbone—the mayor—who, since 2003, has increased corporate partners for its schools from nine to nearly 80."

It was Rick Baker whose vision led to the establishment of the Mayor's Mentors & More program 6 years ago. With the support of the Pinellas Education Foundation, which funded a city staff position to lead mentor training, the city has trained more than 500 mentors over the past 2 years.

Madam Speaker, as Rick Baker embarks upon his final year as mayor, it is good that he

receives recognition for a job well done for the people of St. Petersburg, Florida. He and his work stand as a symbol for all that is good about public service and those who choose to serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK AND
DOLLIE HARVEY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the devotion and commitment Jack and Dollie Harvey have shown their community.

In their 40 years of marriage, they have worked together to help others. Their romance was born out of tragedy with each of them being widowed at a young age. Instead of dwelling on the hardships they faced in losing a loved one and, eventually, the challenges of merging their two families, they became more mindful of the needs of those around them. They helped rebuild after the 1976 Teton Dam collapse; "adopted" the homeless; taught at a juvenile detention center; ministered in migrant camps throughout the Southwest; volunteered at a community recreation center; counseled the terminally ill and their families; organized and managed summer camps for children from low-income families; entertained at nursing homes, state hospitals and city missions; and gave their time, money and energy to every opportunity for service that came their way.

Like many other Americans their age, the Harveys have to stretch their Social Security check to cover their monthly expenses. But they don't worry so much about paying the bills. Quite often, their biggest concern is just finding the energy to breathe. Jack, 78, who suffers from a chronic respiratory disease, and Dollie, 71, a cancer survivor tethered to oxygen, squeeze their numerous doctor's appointments and her frequent transfusions and injections into a hectic schedule devoted to ministering to others.

Sundays are busy days for the couple: teaching Sunday school, practicing for Christmas programs and guest preaching, their efforts continue to make a difference and inspire all of those who meet them. Their lessons have not been lost on their 8 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, who include ministers, educators, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals, a social worker, military members and Arkansas and U.S. Government officials.

Jack and Rollie long ago adopted the motto not to pass on peacefully but to charge ahead helping others until they drop—exhausted and totally spent—into the grave. Truly, it is this kind of commitment, this type of dedication, that makes America great.

HONORING SAM AND DORIS
SHORTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Sam

and Doris Shorter of Cataula, Georgia, upon the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary on January 17, 2009. In this day and age where family values are often discussed, I can think of no greater testament to life, love, honor, and family values than the commitment of a 50 year marriage.

Samuel Shorter and Doris Lawson, both native Georgians, were born, reared and educated in Terrell County. They met while attending Terrell County high school. Sam was the starting guard on the basketball team and Doris was a pretty girl who caught his eye and snared his heart. After courting for just a few months, they both realized they had found true love and were destined to be partners in life. Shortly thereafter, Sam and Doris were joined in holy matrimony on January 17, 1959.

Along the way, during these last 50 years, they built a loving home, had successful careers, created a business and raised a family. Although they settled in New Jersey in the early 1960s, they never forgot their Georgia roots, and retired to Georgia in 2003.

Their marriage has been blessed with three children—Malcom, Tonya and Courtney; a loving daughter-in-law Joan; and six granddaughters—Natalya, Olivia, Alazandra, Victoria, Ciara and Daijhna.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shorters as they celebrate 50 years of marriage. It is refreshing to see two people who have devoted their lives to creating a successful marriage and happy family. They are an example of what a little dedication, a lot of love, and a belief in God can create.

DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL
PROJECT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire Virginia Congressional delegation, the people of the 10th District of Virginia, and everyone who uses Washington Dulles International Airport, I want to thank Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters for her efforts in giving final Federal approval to the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

The Department of Transportation signed off on the project committing some \$900 million in Federal funds to this project, which has been discussed and in the planning stages for decades. It is gratifying to see this project become a reality and it would not have been possible without Secretary Peters's bold leadership, personal attention, and ability to recognize the critical need for congestion relief in the Dulles corridor.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF WATER-
LOO UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniver-

sary Celebration marking the building of the Waterloo United Methodist Church in the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent.

Waterloo United Methodist Church was started in 1855 by a few families crowded into a general store. Devoted congregants constructed a church in 1859. The congregation continued to thrive until the Great Depression when church membership was reduced to all but five congregants. Through the dedication of Mrs. Melissa Dolan, an organist and Sunday school teacher for the church for 50 years, the church was saved from abandonment. Not until 1971 was the church's survival once again threatened, this time by the construction of a dam. Through the help of New Jersey State Senator Wayne Dumont the church was allowed to remain in use and the congregants unanimously voted to not sell the property to the State. In 1980, when membership dwindled to eight families, a conscious effort was made by the congregation to keep their beloved church alive and to this day the church continues to be successful.

The United Methodist Church remains the only operating building in the restored 19th century canal town of Waterloo Village. Today's inter-generational congregation is led by three pastors, the only congregation in the State of New Jersey to be led by a pastoral team, and welcomes parishioners from all walks of life. Although few in numbers this progressive church takes great pride in accepting people from diverse backgrounds, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ whom embraced those that society did not.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Waterloo United Methodist Church on the celebration of 150 years of serving its parishioners and all of Sussex County.

RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF
CLAIBORNE PELL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Claiborne Pell, Princeton Graduate, former senator from Rhode Island, creator of Pell Grants, and writer of legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He served six terms in the office, until 1997.

Words alone can not express my sincere admiration for Claiborne Pell and the legacy he has left behind: a program that has given grants to tens of millions of college students and will continue to give grants to generations of college students to come.

I truly admire Claiborne Pell for his commitment to aiding students in paying for college education. The Pell Grants began with the creation of a bill that created the Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG) which provided financial aid to the needy to attend college. The Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG) was renamed in honor of Pell and his work for these grants in 1980 as Pell Grants: Pell had sponsored the research of a two-volume report that had been the basis of the bill that