

Blunt Facts

Your
Voice in
Washington!

NOVEMBER 2008 | 7TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RECORD | 110TH CONGRESS | 2nd SESSION

What's Inside

- ★ Are you ready for DTV Transition? Pg. 8
- ★ Farm Bill Strengthens Food Banks Pg. 10
- ★ 2008 Congressional Art Competition Pg. 11
- ★ Constituent Success Stories Pg. 14
- ★ Ozarks Farms Seek Energy Efficiencies Pg. 15
- ★ Social Security COLA Up 5.8% Pg. 20
- ★ FEMA Responds To Deadly Tornadoes, Flooding, Ice storms Pg. 20

Contact Congressman Blunt
417-889-1800
Fax: 417-889-4915

New Veterans Clinic Opens in Branson

New VA Center to Open in Greene County in 2009

A new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary care and mental health clinic has begun serving veterans at 5571 Gretna Road near the



Larita Hutchcroft, RN (right) administering a flu shot to Clyde Timms of Branson.

intersection with Highway 248 in Branson. The doors to the 2,400 square foot Community Based Out-patient Clinic (CBOC) opened in

See VA Clinic, Page 4

Unlocking American's Energy Future by Congressman Roy Blunt

For more than a decade, I have consistently advocated a balanced approach to lowering energy prices for the people of Southwest Missouri – an approach that expands access to American energy resources, promotes conservation, and encourages investment in the next generation of energy technology.

We learned again this summer that the cost of fuel to power a car or truck has a dramatic impact on the family budget. Gasoline prices that topped out in Southwest Missouri at \$3.90 a gallon (more than \$4.50 a gallon in some places) this summer cut driving by more than 10 billion miles in America and forced families and businesses to make painful decisions.

I heard those stories at gas pumps, diners, and roundtable discussions across the Ozarks. Family outings and dinners, trips to ballgames, movies and vacations all fell victim to never before seen gasoline prices. Even as gas prices have come back down to earth this fall, that pain still resonates – with motorists rightly fearing that high prices will return.

In my judgment, the key to preventing what we saw this past summer is to produce more American energy. The United States is not oil poor, but access to those plentiful resources has been off limits for nearly three decades. This October, under constant pressure from motorists and fearful of a return of \$4 gas, the majority in Congress allowed its long-standing moratorium on offshore energy exploration to expire.

But this is only a first step. We need to make sure the expiration of the offshore energy ban actually translates into the acquisition of new energy. Bureaucracy on its own ensures that process is time consuming as environmental assessments are followed by lengthy comment periods before the first drop of oil is even produced. Unfortunately, that's not even where the real struggle begins.

The real battle for energy independence and affordability will shift to the courts, as a relatively small number of radical organizations look to



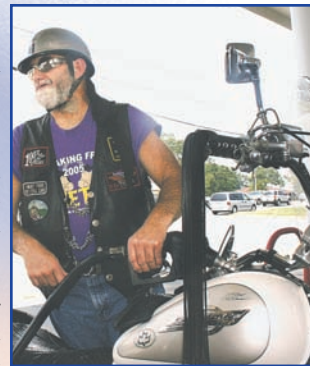
America's Reliance on Oil

- There are approximately 170,000 gasoline refueling stations in America
- A quarter-billion vehicles are registered in America, with 2.17 million big trucks and 6.69 million motorcycles
- Nearly 40 percent of the American fleet is ten years old or older.
- Only 13.5 percent of the cars and trucks in service today are less than three years old.
- Fewer than 600,000 vehicles use electricity, batteries, natural gas or another alternative fuels. New models being readied for show rooms in 2010 start at nearly \$40,000 each.
- America's car and truck fleet consumes on an average day more than 21 million barrels—about a fourth of world's daily demand.
- At least two-thirds of oil demand is imported from countries that don't like our politics or our freedoms. Those foreign governments own the oil, not the oil companies. Those imports cost our economy \$700 billion this year.

manipulate the rules of our judicial system to prevent responsible access to publicly-owned energy. These groups don't even have to win in court to achieve their desired effect – the simple act of filing litigation, as was done earlier this year on all 487 leases in Alaska's remote Chukchi Sea, ensures that no serious development can take place for a very long time.

Absent these hurdles, we can begin pumping oil from new platforms in the Gulf and off the continental shelf within three years – in some areas, even sooner. Alaska's North Slope coastal plain is only 80 miles from the existing pipeline

See Energy Future, Page 5



Blunt worked to extend critical tax incentives in Congress' final days

A longtime advocate of providing tax incentives for charitable giving to help the nation's neediest, Congressman Roy Blunt shepherded through an extension of these important tax incentives. These incentives will not only help charities across the nation but also charitable organizations here in Southwest Missouri.

"Our nation is confronting one of the most challenging times in recent memory," Blunt said. "But even when times are tough, we have never turned our back on those in need. I believe that giving to charities is one of the defining characteristics that sets our nation apart. That is why I fought, in the remaining days of Congress' legislative session, to ensure we extended critical tax incentives to increase charitable giving."

Blunt originally authored the Charitable Giving Act, whose provisions Congress extended through 2009, to help spur donations into America's charities. Congress overwhelmingly passed the Charitable Giving Act in 2003 by a vote of 408 to 17.

"I introduced the Charitable Giving Act in 2003 to garner new support and resources for a broad range of community and faith-based groups," continued Blunt. "The point was to encourage giving, savings, and fairness by encouraging charitable giving by individuals, by corporations, and by foundations. I believe we accomplished that, and I'm pleased

See Charitable Giving, Page 6



2007 ROY'S RECORD

7th District Missouri
Congressman Roy Blunt's Voting Record
110th Congress, First Session - Dec. 2007

This is the 12th Edition of all the recorded votes cast by Roy Blunt in the U.S. House of Representatives from December 2007, during the First Session of the 110th Congress, through October 2008, covering the Second Session of the 110th Congress.

Each recorded vote includes the roll call number, date of the vote, title of the bill, a brief explanation of the measure, Roy's vote, and whether the bill passed or failed, along with the total House vote. Votes on 480 substantive bills, amendments, and resolutions are presented here in chronological order, but procedural votes such as rules, quorum calls, journal approvals and motions to adjourn are excluded for the sake of space.

> **1123 12/4/07 H.R. 3998** Requiring the Interior Department to conduct studies of 10 national sites or trails to determine the appropriate means for their preservation, use and management, and to weigh the possibility of inclusion in the National Park System or National Trails System. The bill included studies of areas where local land-owners objected to inclusion of lands in federal parks. **NO Passed* 326-79**

> **1124 12/4/07 H.R. 3887** Reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act through FY2011, authorizing support for foreign anti-trafficking efforts, extending a visa program for victims of trafficking and prohibiting U.S. funds for military assistance to governments that use child soldiers. **YES Passed* 405-2**

> **1125 12/4/07 H.R. 2082** Motion to instruct House conferees to eliminate any House or Senate earmarks and insist on provisions authorizing the maximum level of funding permissible for human intelligence collection activities. **YES Passed 249-160**

> **1126 12/4/07 H.R. 710** Concurring in the Senate amendments, with amendments, to the bill that clarify that paired human organ donations should not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for "valuable consideration," so that no criminal penalties apply to paired donations. **YES Passed* 407-1**

> **1128 12/5/07 H.R. 1585** Motion to instruct House conferees to agree to provisions in the Senate amendment opposing any legislation that undermines the military's ability to prevent a failed state in Iraq. It also instructs conferees to agree to House provisions authorizing additional appropriations for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. **YES Passed 328-83**

> **1129 12/5/07 H. Con. Res. 147** Recognizing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its predecessor agencies for 200 years of service. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **1130 12/5/07 H.R. 236** Authorizing funding and creating a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and North Bay Water Reuse Authority in Sonoma County, Calif., and other regional partners for water reclamation and reuse projects. **YES Passed* 358-15**

> **1131 12/5/07 H.R. 3791** Expanding reporting requirements for electronic communication and remote computing service providers related to violations of child pornography laws found on their servers. Failure to report could result in fines of up to \$150,000 for the first offense and up to \$300,000 for subsequent offenses. **YES Passed* 409-2**

> **1132 12/5/07 H.R. 2517** Reauthorizing

the Missing Children's Assistance Act through FY2013 and requiring Justice Department grants to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children be used to operate a national toll-free hotline, providing information regarding free or low-cost services for missing and exploited children and their families. It provides technical assistance and training to law enforcement, and coordinates programs that locate or reunite missing children with their families. **YES Passed* 408-3**

> **1133 12/5/07 H. Res 822** Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Port of Los Angeles. **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **1135 12/6/07 H.R. 3505** Removing references to the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA), which was repealed in 2005, from the Investment Company Act of 1940, Investment Advisers Act of 1940, Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Trust Indenture Act of 1939. **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **1138 12/6/07 H.R. 4253** Authorizing \$4 million for the Veterans Business Development Office and establishing a Women Veterans Business Training Resource Program to provide assistance to small businesses owned by veterans and armed forces reservists. **YES Passed* 407-2**

> **1140 12/6/07 H.R. 6** Concurring in the Senate amendments, with an amendment. The House amendment requires new CAFE standards of 35 miles per gallon for cars and light trucks by 2020 and requires 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be produced and used annually by 2022. It mandates electric utilities to produce at least 15 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 and directs the Energy Department to set new energy efficiency standards. It also includes a \$13 billion tax increase on U.S. energy companies. **NO Passed 235-181**

> **1141 12/6/07 H.R. 2085** Permitting the Interior Department to convey the McGee Creek Project water pipeline and associated facilities to the Oklahoma McGee Creek Authority. **YES Passed* 373-0**

> **1142 12/11/07 H. Res. 842** Expressing sympathy for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh and reaffirming the U.S. commitment to providing aid to the storm's victims. **YES Passed* 388-0**

> **1143 12/11/07 H. Res. 847** Recognizing Christianity as one of the great religions in the world and acknowledging the international religious and historical importance of Christmas and the Christian faith. **YES Passed* 372-9**

> **1144 12/11/07 H.R. 4343** Allowing pilots to serve in multi-crew operations until they reach age 65, rather than age 60, and requiring pilots who have reached age 60 to obtain a first-

class medical certificate and have it renewed every six months. **YES Passed* 390-0**

> **1149 12/12/07 H.R. 4299** Motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee with instructions that it be reported back immediately with language to strike provisions setting deductibles and adding group life insurance and setting the amount of losses that would trigger federal aid to insurance companies at \$100 million. **YES Failed 173-246**

> **1150 12/12/07 H.R. 4299** Reauthorizing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) through 2014. The bill lowers the amount of losses that would trigger federal aid to insurance companies to \$50 million. It sets deductibles, starting at 5 percent, that insurance companies would be responsible for when an act of terrorism resulting in aggregate industry insured losses exceeding \$1 billion occurs. It also adds group life insurance to policies backed by the government for which terrorism insurance coverage must be made available by insurers. **NO Passed 303-116**

> **1151 12/12/07 H.R. 1585** Adoption of the conference report to authorize \$696.3 billion for defense programs in FY2008, including \$189.4 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It authorizes \$142.8 billion for operations and maintenance; \$119.8 billion for military personnel; \$23.7 billion for military construction and family housing; and \$24.2 billion for defense health-care programs. It authorizes a 3.5 percent pay increase for military personnel. **YES Passed 370-49**

> **1152 12/12/07 H.R. 4351** Motion to table (kill) the McCrery, R-La., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Neal point of order that the McCrery motion to recommit the bill with instructions to the House Ways and Means Committee does not comply with House pay-as-you-go rules. **NO Passed 225-191**

> **1153 12/12/07 H.R. 4351** Providing a one-year adjustment to prevent an additional 21 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax (AMT) on income from 2007. The bill also includes a permanent tax increase of \$55.7 billion (first ten years). **NO Passed 226-193**

> **1154 12/12/07 H.R. 3963** Motion to postpone further consideration of a veto override until Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program at nearly \$60 billion over five years, expanding the program by \$35 billion. **NO Passed 211-180**

> **1155 12/12/07 H.R. 3985** Allowing the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to provide motor carrier registration for a carrier that provides over-the-road bus transportation only if that carrier is willing and able to com-

ply with Transportation Department accessibility regulations. **YES Passed* 374-0**

> **1159 12/13/07 H.R. 2082** Motion to recommit the conference report back to the conference committee with instructions to eliminate any provisions regarding earmarks and insisting on provisions authorizing the maximum level of funding permissible for human intelligence collection activities. **YES Failed 205-215**

> **1160 12/13/07 H.R. 2082** Adoption of the conference report to authorize classified amounts in FY2008 for 17 U.S. intelligence activities and agencies, including the CIA, the Office of the National Intelligence Director and the National Security Agency. It authorizes funds for the intelligence portion of the FY2008 emergency supplemental for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It applies the requirements of the U.S. Army Field Manual regarding interrogations to all federal agencies. **NO Passed 222-199**

> **1161 12/13/07 H. J. Res. 69** Motion to table (kill) the Lewis, R-Calif., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Obey point of order that the amendment proposed within the Lewis motion to recommit the bill with instructions to the Appropriations Committee pertains to a time period beyond the scope of the continuing resolution, which would expire on Dec. 21, 2007. **NO Passed 222-194**

> **1162 12/13/07 H. J. Res. 69** Providing continuing appropriations through Dec. 21, 2007, for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2008 appropriations bills have not been enacted. Funding would be set at FY2007 levels. **YES Passed 385-27**

> **1163 12/17/07 H. Res. 856** Expressing sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Neb., and conveying gratitude to city and county officials who responded swiftly to the scene. **YES Passed* 387-0**

> **1164 12/17/07 H. Res. 851** Honoring the citizens of the Pacific Northwest as well as the National Weather Service, state and local police, firefighters and other first responders for their efforts in responding to the recent winter storm. **YES Passed* 390-0**

> **1171 12/17/07 H.R. 2764** Concurring in the Senate amendment with the 1st House amendment, the Omnibus Appropriations bill. The Omnibus Appropriations bill provides \$484.7 billion in discretionary spending in FY2008 for all federal departments and agencies whose regular FY2008 spending bills have not been enacted. The measure incorporates 11 previously separate appropriations bills: Agriculture; Commerce-Justice-Science; Energy-Water; Financial Services; Homeland Security; Interior-Environment; Labor-HHS-Education; Legislative Branch; Military Construction-VA; State-Foreign Operations; and Transportation-HUD. The total includes approximately \$11.2 billion in emergency funding. Note: H.R. 2764 was originally the FY2008 State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill. **NO Passed 253-154**

> **1172 12/17/07 H.R. 2764** Concurring in the Senate amendment with the 2nd House amendment. The House amendment provides \$31 billion for operations in Afghanistan and prohibits the funds from being used for opera-

GLOSSARY OF TERMS KEY: Yes=Votes in Favor | No=Votes Against | *= Super majority required on suspension bills & constitutional amendments

Amendment - A proposal from a member of Congress to alter the language, provisions, or stipulations in a bill or in another amendment. It is usually printed, debated, and voted upon in the same way as a bill.

Appropriation - Legislation which provides the spending authority approved by authorization bills but not necessarily the full amount authorized. There are 12 annual appropriation bills for each fiscal year which begins on October 1.

Authorization - Basic legislation that establishes or continues (reauthorization) the legal operation of a federal program or agency, either indefinitely or for a specific time period, or which sanctions a particular type of obligation or expenditure.

Bill - A legislative proposal, designated as "HR" in the House of Representatives or "S" in the Senate, followed by a number assigned to the order in which it was introduced during the two-year session of a Congress. A bill becomes a law if it is approved by both House and Senate in identical form and language and signed by the president or a president's veto is overridden by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

Concurrent Resolution - A resolution, designated as House Concurrent Resolution ("H Con Res") or Senate Concurrent Resolution ("S Con Res") often used to express the "sense of Congress" on various domestic or foreign policy issues. Concurrent resolutions differ from bills as they neither require nor are intended for approval by the president and, therefore, do not have the full force of law.

Conference Report - The product of a meeting ("conference") between designated representatives of the House and Senate to reconcile differences between the two chambers over provisions of a bill or joint resolution passed by both chambers in different forms or language. No bill or joint resolution can be sent to the president unless both chambers of Congress have approved common language ("conference report") on the measure.

Continuing Resolution - A bill which provides appropriations for specific ongoing activities of federal agencies when a fiscal year begins and Congress has not yet enacted the regular appropriations bill for the full fiscal year.

Joint Resolution - A resolution designated House Joint Resolution ("HJRes") or Senate Joint Resolution ("SJRes") followed by a number assigned in the order in

which it was introduced during the two year session in which a particular Congress is convened. If approved by both chambers in identical form and signed by the president, it becomes a law (just as a bill). A joint resolution is generally limited to special circumstances and is also used to propose amendments to the Constitution. Under that purpose, it does not require a presidential signature and becomes part of the Constitution if three-fourths of the states ratify or approve it.

Motion to Recommit - A procedural motion made by the minority party immediately preceding a vote on final passage of a piece of legislation. It is an attempt to send legislation back to its committee of origin so that important changes can be made. MTRs, as they are called, represent the minority party's last, best chance to make vital improvements to legislation before it is passed.

tion in Iraq. **NO Passed 206-201**
> **1173 12/17/07 H. Con. Res. 254** Recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood. **YES Passed* 403-1**
> **1176 12/18/07 H.R. 3793** Guaranteeing that no member of the armed forces who dies, other than as a result of the member's misconduct, or is retired or separated for disability, will be required to repay any portion of a bonus or similar benefit that they had received. It requires that such estates of service members must be paid within 90 days the full contracted amount of any unpaid bonus as if they had continued to serve in the military. **YES Passed* 405-0**
> **1177 12/18/07 H.R. 6** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the Energy Bill. The amended bill requires new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards of 35 miles per gallon for cars and light trucks, and requires 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be used by 2022. It also directs the Energy Department to set new energy efficiency standards. **YES Passed 314-100**
> **1178 12/18/07 H.R. 2761** Agreeing to the Senate amendment to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) through 2014. As amended, the bill would set the amount of losses that triggers federal aid to insurance companies at \$100 million. It sets deductibles, starting at 5 percent, that insurance companies would be responsible for when an act of terrorism resulting in aggregate industry-insured losses exceeding \$1 billion occurs. It also allows the Treasury Department to combine multiple acts of terrorism in the same year and in the same geographic area for determining whether the \$1 billion threshold has been exceeded. **YES Passed* 360-53**
> **1179 12/18/07 S. 2271** Barring federal contracts with companies that do business with the Sudanese government. It authorizes states to do the same and to divest assets from the country, and shield investment and pension managers from lawsuits that contend that divesting would lower a fund's profits. **YES Passed* 411-0**
> **1180 12/18/07 H. Res. 542** Expressing support for the members of the National Guard and recognizing the sacrifices made by Guard

members on behalf of the United States. **YES Passed* 408-0**
> **1181 12/18/07 H.R. 3997** Concurring with the Senate amendment to H. Res. 884 with an amendment to include \$1.9 billion in new and extended tax benefits for military personnel, veterans, volunteer firefighters, emergency medical responders and public servants. It allows volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel to exclude from gross income certain reimbursements and state and local tax benefits. It also changes eligibility rules to allow certain military families to receive Supplemental Security Income. **YES Passed* 411-0**
> **1182 12/18/07 H.R. 3690** Concurring in the Senate amendment merging the Library of Congress Police with the U.S. Capitol Police, with a transition period ending Sept. 30, 2009. **YES Passed* 413-0**
> **1183 12/19/07 H.R. 3996** Concurring in the Senate amendment to provide a one-year adjustment to exempt an additional 21 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax on income from 2007. **YES Passed* 352-64**
> **1184 12/19/07 S. 2499** Delaying for six months a 10.1 percent cut to Medicare's physician payment rates that is scheduled for Jan. 1, 2008, and instead providing them with a 0.5 percent increase in those rates during the same time period. The measure extends the authorization for the State Children's Health Insurance Program until March 31, 2009. **YES Passed* 411-3**
> **1185 12/19/07 H.R. 4040** Lowering the allowable level of lead in children's toys to 100 parts per million from 600 parts per million, and requiring all lead manufactures to comply in four years. It authorizes \$270 million in FY2009 through 2011 for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, including an additional \$20 million for renovation, repair, reconstruction, re-equipping and making other capital improvements to the commission's research, development and testing facility. **YES Passed* 407-0**
> **1186 12/19/07 H.R. 2764** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the House amendments to the Senate amendment providing \$70 billion for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. **YES Passed 272-142**

2008 ROY'S RECORD

7th District Missouri
Congressman Roy Blunt's Voting Record
110th Congress, Second Session - 2008

> **3 1/16/08 H. Res. 912** Condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and expressing condolences to her family and the families of victims of the Dec. 27, 2007 attack. **YES Passed* 413-0**
> **4 1/16/08 H.R. 4253** Concurring with the Senate amendment to the bill with an amendment (H. Res. 921). The House amendment strikes a provision from the Senate amendment to require a study to examine obstacles facing veterans who want to start businesses. It also limits proposed guidelines for an interagency task force intended to increase access to capital for small businesses owned by veterans and strikes a provision to eliminate employment loans included in the bill's disaster program. **YES Passed* 406-2**
> **5 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** An amendment to alter, but maintain the requirement that the mining industry install, regardless of availability, fire-resistant conveyor belts and authorize \$30 million for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to purchase new dust-monitoring devices. It establishes that portable air chamber requirements in the bill can only be met by obtaining a chamber, not by placing an order for one, irrespective of availability. **NO Passed 234-183**
> **6 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** An amendment to authorize \$10 million for grants to provide rehabilitation services to current and former miners with mental impairments, including drug addiction. **YES Passed 364-53**
> **7 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** An amendment to require the Labor secretary to maintain a list of mine operators who fail to pay assessed penalties. Operators would remain on the list until the secretary determines that the operator is no longer in arrears or is committed to timely pay-

ments of final assessments. The amendment would establish the Mine Safety Program Fund for mine safety inspections and investigations. **YES Passed 416-0**
> **8 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** Substitute amendment expressing the sense of Congress that current laws should be fully implemented, require a "Technical Study Panel" to evaluate the risk assessment procedures of deep mine conditions, require the Labor Department to promulgate regulations within 180 days of the bill's enactment for a drug-testing program for miners, and compile a registry within the same period of miners who test positive for substance abuse. It also would strike certain enforcement requirements and penalties established in the bill. **YES Failed 188-229**
> **9 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** Motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee with instructions to report it back with a new language requiring substance abuse testing for mine workers. **YES Failed 197-217**
> **10 1/16/08 H.R. 2768** Circumventing the existing rule-making process for mine safety, propose universal requirements on mines of all sizes and types without differentiating various safety needs, and impose approximately \$1 billion in unfunded mandates on American mines. In addition, mine operators would be forced to have certain safety equipment in place by dates certain, even if such equipment was unavailable. **NO Passed 214-199**
> **11 1/16/08 H.R. 4986** Authorizing \$696.4 billion for defense programs in FY2008, including \$189.5 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It authorizes \$142.8 billion for operations and maintenance; \$119.7 billion for military personnel; \$23.7 billion for military construction and family housing; and \$23.1 billion for the Defense Health Program. It authorizes a 3.5 percent pay increase for military personnel. It also allows the president to waive certain liability provisions as they apply to Iraq. **YES Passed* 369-46**
> **12 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** An amendment to require all housing units built as of Jan. 1, 2005, to be replaced at a one-for-one rate if demolished and would extend the timeline for rebuilding re-

placement housing to 54 months after the grant is enacted. It would also clarify that those illegally residing in the United States would not be eligible for public housing funded by HOPE VI grant money. It requires the program's construction to comply with the green building rating system. **YES Passed 388-20**

> **13 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** An amendment to change the bill's requirement for one-to-one replacement of demolished housing units to apply only to units occupied before demolition. **YES Failed 181-227**

> **14 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** An amendment to allow the Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue to issue demolition-only HOPE VI grants. **YES Failed 186-221**

> **15 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** An amendment to bar the use of funds to pay for local prevailing wage requirements under the Davis-Bacon Act for public housing projects. **NO Failed 136-268**

> **16 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** An amendment to strike the mandatory green building standards from the bill and instead require the Hous-

ing and Urban Development Department to select a rating system for green buildings.

YES Failed 169-240

> **17 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** Motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee with instructions to include language that would give veterans with at least 90 days of service who were released or discharged honorably an increased priority consideration under the housing assistance program. **YES Passed 372-28**

> **18 1/17/08 H.R. 3524** Reauthorizing \$800 million per year from FY2008-2015 for the HOPE VI public housing program. It also requires one-for-one replacement regardless of need of housing units demolished under the program, require mixed-income housing on sites of demolished low-income housing and set guidelines for public housing units to be built in mixed neighborhoods. The bill would impose new "green" building standards. **NO Passed 271-130**

> **19 1/22/08 H.R. 4211** Designating a post office in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office."

YES Passed* 391-0

> **20 1/22/08 H. Res. 866** Honoring the U.S. Coast Guard for its 217 years of providing maritime law enforcement and border protection.

YES Passed* 391-0

> **22 1/23/08 H.R. 3963** Passage, over President Bush's Dec. 12, 2007 veto, of the bill to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program at nearly \$60 billion over five years, expanding the program by \$35 billion. It expands eligibility beyond 300 percent of poverty. It increases the tax on cigarettes by 61 cents to \$1 per pack and raised taxes on other tobacco products. This bill failed to ensure that illegal immigrants wouldn't have access, and included a budget gimmick that would have put the program at risk. **NO Failed 260-152**

> **23 1/28/08 S. 2110** Designating a post office in Taft, Calif., as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office." **YES Passed* 388-0**

> **24 1/28/08 H.R. 4140** Designating the Port Angeles Federal Building in Port Angeles, Wash., as the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building." **YES Passed* 388-0**

> **25 1/29/08 H.R. 5140** Providing advance refund of a tax credit for most taxpayers equal to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for couples. Families would receive \$300 for each child under 17. It provides businesses with a 50 percent depreciation for certain equipment purchased in 2008 and increases to \$250,000 the amount small businesses can expense in the year items are purchased. It raises the size of mortgage loans the Federal Housing Administration could insure and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could purchase. **YES Passed* 385-35**

> **26 1/29/08 H. Res. 933** Commending the Louisiana State University Tigers football team for winning the 2007 Bowl Championship Series national championship game. **YES Passed* 409-1**

> **27 1/29/08 H.R. 1525** Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions that it be immediately reported back with language to prohibit the use of eminent domain to add lands to the New England National Scenic Trail. **YES Failed 183-205**

> **28 1/29/08 H.R. 1528** Redesignating the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett trail system as the New England National Scenic Trail. It expands the trail to 220 miles from Royalston, Mass., to Guilford, Conn. **YES Passed 261-122**

> **29 2/6/08 H. Res. 867** Commending the Houston Dynamo Soccer Team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup. **YES Passed* 373-0**

> **30 2/6/08 H. Res. 942** Recognizing the significance of Black History Month as an important time to recognize the contributions of African Americans and encourage the continued celebration of the month. **YES Passed* 367-0**

> **31 2/6/08 H. Res. 943** Honoring the 22nd anniversary of the Jan. 28, 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion and the seven crew members who died in the accident. **YES Passed* 371-0**

> **34 2/7/08 H. Con. Res. 283** Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya, commending the Kenyan people for their high voter turnout on election day and condemning the ongoing violence in Kenya.

YES Passed* 405-1

> **35 2/7/08 H.R. 4848** Extending through 2008 current provisions barring group health plans that offer mental health coverage from imposing different aggregate lifetime or annual dollar limits for such treatment than those imposed for treatment of other illnesses. **YES Passed* 384-23**

> **36 2/7/08 H.R. 4137** An amendment to require the Education-Treasury Study Group to evaluate the feasibility overhaul to the Federal Family Education Loan Program to operate auctions for administering loan programs. **NO Passed 260-153**

> **37 2/7/08 H.R. 4137** An amendment to extend the audit and reporting provisions applied to the Federal Direct Loan program to the Federal Family Education Loan Program and would thus supersede the specialized audit requirements for each program. **NO Passed 222-191**

> **38 2/7/08 H.R. 4137** An amendment to allow private student loan borrowers to use bankruptcy to avoid repaying their loans. **NO Failed 179-236**

> **39 2/7/08 H.R. 4137** Motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee with instructions to include language that would suspend funding for the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education unless Pell grants and special education programs are fully funded in that fiscal year. **YES Failed 194-216**

> **40 2/7/08 H.R. 4137** Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act through FY2012. The measure raises the maximum Pell grant award from \$5,800 to \$9,000 and allows the grants to be used year-round. It also creates numerous new programs and allows the federal government to regulate state support to public colleges and universities. The bill is estimated to cost taxpayers \$97 billion over five years. **NO Passed 354-58**

> **41 2/7/08 H. Res. 947** Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea. **YES Passed* 388-0**

> **42 2/7/08 H.R. 5140** Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to provide advance refund of a tax credit for most taxpayers equal to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for couples. Families would receive \$300 for each child under 17. It also would begin phasing out the benefit for individuals with adjusted gross incomes above \$75,000 and married couples with incomes above \$150,000. It provides businesses with a 50 percent depreciation for certain equipment purchased in 2008 and increase to \$250,000 the amount small businesses can expense in the year items are purchased. It raises the size of mortgage loans the Federal Housing Administration could insure and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could purchase. It expands eligibility for rebate checks to include low-income senior citizens, disabled veterans and widows of veterans. It also provides that illegal immigrants would not be eligible for rebate checks. **YES Passed 380-34**

> **43 2/12/08 H. Res. 954** Recognizing fallen border patrol agents and paying tribute to Luis A. Aguilar, who died in the line of duty. **YES Passed* 357-0**

> **44 2/12/08 H. Res. 909** Recognizing the role of Haitian soldiers who fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah," as well as Haiti's independence and renunciation of

VA Clinic continued from Page 1

late September.

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "This facility will provide the quality of care our veterans deserve. I'm glad the VA saw the same need that Senator Bond and I did to add a second clinic in Southwest Missouri. With record high gas prices, our veterans deserve convenient health care facilities in their own communities."

Initially, the CBOC will house two primary care teams and mental health services. Audiology, optometry, home based primary care, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology and additional services will become available in the near future as the CBOC expands in response to increased patient traffic.

The VA anticipates the Branson CBOC will serve 900 existing patients and 3,900 new patients. The new Branson location will save many of them trips to Mt. Vernon or Fayetteville, Arkansas to see a VA doctor.

The Center will improve veterans' access to primary and specialty care, especially in rural, historically underserved areas. Services will include comprehensive primary care, health promotion, maintenance, routine/urgent care procedures and education. On the mental health side, the Center will include a wide range of outpatient mental health services to include medication management, substance abuse treatment/counseling, individual and group counsel-

ing, and assessment/evaluation and therapy.

The VA has also decided to locate a new Veterans Center in Greene County next year, as one of 39 new VA community centers that will be opened around the country in 2009. The center will specialize in counseling and mental health services for veterans who served in combat.

"It is critical that we improve treatment for our service members and veterans suffering with mental injuries like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and increasing access to Vets Centers are an important part of that effort," said Senator Bond. "I hope the Pentagon will also give active-duty troops access to these community-based counseling centers, which is a key provision in my bipartisan bill to care better for our wounded heroes."

The existing 232 VA centers conduct community outreach, offering counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat veterans and family members as well as bereavement counseling for families of service members killed on active duty. They are staffed by small teams of professional counselors and social workers, many of whom were combat veterans. The services are made available at no cost to combat veterans of any war era. Missouri has two other existing centers in St. Louis and Kansas City.



Cristine Henderson (left) is the clinic manager and Kathleen Fogarty is the Medical Center Director for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

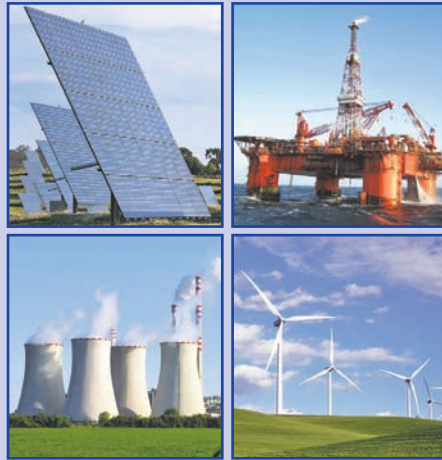
Energy Future continued from Page 1

and we are certain there are vast, untapped oil reserves there if we could only explore and develop them.

But most Missourians I've talked to over the past year don't have the luxury of time. They and our economy need affordable energy right now. They cannot believe that Congress stands in the way of developing new oil reserves, building new refineries opening the door to safe nuclear power, and expanding options for alternatives like oil shale, solar and wind power.

If we have any hope of rebuilding our nation's economy, access to affordable energy will be the key to achieving it. And if we have any hope of returning to an age of affordable, available and secure energy sources, it'll take an unprecedented commitment by Congress, the Administration, and the American people to develop as much new energy as we can, while taking real

steps to use the energy we've got better, smarter, and more efficiently.



"Find More, Use Less, Invest in the Future" Energy Plan

American Energy:

- ✓ Open our Deep Water Ocean resources, which will provide an additional 3 million barrels of oil per day, as well as 76 trillion cubic feet of natural gas;
- ✓ Open Arctic Coastal Plain, which will provide an additional 1 million barrels of oil per day; and
- ✓ Allow development of our nation's shale oil resources, which could provide an additional 2.5 million barrels of oil per day.

Conservation & Efficiency:

- ✓ Provide tax incentives for businesses and families that purchase more fuel efficient vehicles;
- ✓ Provide a monetary prize for the first person to develop an economically feasible super fuel efficient vehicle (100 mpg); and
- ✓ Provide tax incentives for businesses and homeowners who improve their energy efficiency.

New & Expanding Technologies:

- ✓ Spur the development of alternative fuels through government contracting;
- ✓ Extend for ten years the tax credit for alternative energy production including wind, solar, and hydro-power; and
- ✓ Eliminate barriers to the expansion of emission-free nuclear production.

slavery. **YES Passed* 361-0**

> **45 2/12/08 H. Con. Res. 281** Requesting the president issue a proclamation each year recognizing the anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. **YES Passed* 357-0**

> **54 2/13/08 H.R. 5349** Extending the Protect America Act of 2007 (PL 110-55) for 21 days without providing any legal protections for companies that comply with lawful requests to conduct surveillance on foreign terrorists. **NO Failed 191-229**

> **55 2/13/08 H. Res. 960** Congratulating the New York Giants of the National Football League on winning Super Bowl XLII. **YES Passed* 412-1**

> **57 2/13/08 H. Res. 917** Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, which runs from Feb. 17-23, 2008, in its aim to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers. **YES Passed* 408-0**

> **61 2/14/08 H. Res. 966** Recognizing the achievements of African Americans who have contributed to national research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. **YES Passed* 387-0**

> **62 2/14/08 H.R. 1834** Authorizing \$454

million through FY2014 for two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs, \$289 million over seven years for a national ocean exploration program and \$164.5 million over seven years for a national undersea research program. **YES Passed* 352-49**

> **63 2/14/08 S. 2571** Making technical corrections to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act by adding "exempt from" to the law and changing the date on which new pesticide registration fees would be based to Sept. 30, 2012 instead of Sept. 30, 2008. **YES Passed* 400-0**

> **64 2/14/08 H. Con. Res. 289** Honoring and recognizing the 99th anniversary of the founding of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and praising its work in ensuring political, educational, social and economic equality. **YES Passed* 403-0**

> **65 2/14/08 H.R. 4169** Authorizing the Army to place an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery honoring blind members of the armed forces, veterans and other Americans. **YES Passed* 396-0**

> **67 2/14/08 H. Res. 963** Supporting the goals and ideals of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, designated as Feb. 11-15,

2008, and its efforts to pay tribute to and express appreciation for hospitalized veterans. **YES Passed* 384-0**

> **68 2/14/08 H. Res. 972** Supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day and reaffirming a commitment to fighting heart disease and stroke. **YES Passed* 389-0**

> **69 2/25/08 H. Res. 978** Recognizing the contribution of school social workers and supporting the designation of March 3-7, 2008 as School Social Work Week. **YES Passed* 379-0**

> **70 2/25/08 H. Res. 930** Supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month. **YES Passed* 380-0**

> **71 2/25/08 H. Res. 944** Honoring Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore for his service and accomplishments during 37 years in the U.S. Army, including his leadership in the post-Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. **YES Passed 380-0**

> **75 2/26/08 H.R. 3521** An amendment to prohibit the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department from considering a public housing agency to be in non-compliance with the bill's asset management requirements solely on the basis that the agency's management fees are not reasonable as defined by HUD. **YES Passed 415-0**

> **76 2/26/08 H.R. 3521** An amendment to require the Housing and Urban Development Department to recognize certain tenant agreements in the event of a federal agency takeover. **NO Passed 337-77**

> **77 2/26/08 H.R. 3521** Motion to table (kill) the Smith, R-Texas, appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Sires point of order that the Smith motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee was not germane. The Smith motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back immediately with an amendment substituting the text of the Senate-passed version of the bill (H.R. 3773), which would amend and extend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, providing authority to intercept and monitor communication between terrorists overseas. **NO Passed 218-195**

> **82 2/27/08 H.R. 5351** Motion to table (kill) the Hoekstra, R-Mich., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Sires point of order that the Smith motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee was not germane. The Smith motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back immediately with an amendment substituting the text of the Senate-passed version of the bill (H.R. 3773), which would amend and extend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, providing authority to intercept and monitor communication between terrorists overseas. **NO Passed 221-191**

> **83 2/27/08 H.R. 5351** Motion to recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back to the House promptly with amendments to strike certain tax increases, including the elimination of a manufacturing tax deduction for U.S. based oil and gas companies. The amendments also strike tax credits for bicycle commuters and add a new title extending marriage penalty tax relief and the increase in child tax credit, which are set to expire. **YES Failed 197-222**

> **84 2/27/08 H.R. 5351** Raising taxes by \$18 billion for U.S. based oil and gas companies. The

revenue would be used to extend several expiring tax incentives for energy conservation and energy production and create new tax incentives, including for bicycling to work and green bonds. **NO Passed 236-182**

> **85 2/28/08 S. 2272** Designating a U.S. postal facility in Alexandria, La., as the "John 'Marty' Thiels Southpark Station." **YES Passed* 400-0**

> **86 2/28/08 H.R. 3936** Designating the post office in Cleveland, Ga., as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building." **YES Passed* 400-0**

> **87 2/28/08 H.R. 4454** Designating a postal facility in Louisville, Ky., as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building." **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **88 3/4/08 H.R. 1143** Authorizing the Interior secretary to lease certain lands in the Virgin Islands National Park to the current holder of the Caneel Bay Resort, an estate in the park. The bill requires the resort owners to compensate the federal government for continued private use of park land. **YES Passed* 378-0**

> **89 3/4/08 H.R. 1311** Authorizing the Interior Department to give a certain amount of land to the Nevada Cancer Institute and the City of Las Vegas to develop a new nonprofit cancer treatment facility and related medical facilities. **YES Passed* 377-0**

> **90 3/4/08 H.R. 816** Ending the wilderness study on 65 acres of the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in Nevada and requiring the Interior secretary to provide the county with a right-of-way to construct and maintain a flood-water retention basin. **YES Passed* 375-0**

> **91 3/5/08 H.R. 4191** Renaming Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in Ohio as "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historic Park." **YES Passed* 407-4**

> **92 3/5/08 H. Con. Res. 278** Expressing continuing support for Taiwan's democracy and applauding its fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008. **YES Passed* 409-1**

> **93 3/5/08 H. Res. 951** Strongly condemning the continuing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel, supporting Israel's right to defend its territory and calling on other nations to help stop the flow of weaponry to Palestinian territories. **YES Passed* 404-1**

> **97 3/5/08 H.R. 4774** Designating a post office in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Cyn-di Taylor Krier Post Office Building." **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **98 3/5/08 H. Con. Res. 286** Recognizing Earl Lloyd for becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association 58 years ago. **YES Passed* 412-0**

> **100 3/5/08 H.R. 1424** Motion to recommit the bill to the Energy and Commerce Committee with instructions that it be reported back immediately with language substituting the text of Senate-passed bill (S. 558), which would not specify what mental health conditions insurers must cover. **YES Failed 196-221**

> **101 3/5/08 H.R. 1424** Requiring health insurers to offer mental health benefits equal in cost and scope to medical health benefits and to cover all mental health conditions, included in the industry diagnostic manual, which includes items like caffeine addiction and jet lag. This

new mandate is estimated to increase insurance costs by at least \$50 a year for a family of four.

NO Passed 268-148

> **102 3/5/08 H.R. 5400** Designating a post office in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building." **YES Passed 402-0**

> **105 3/6/08 H.R. 2857** An amendment to strike the new "summer of service" grant program and eliminate the \$20 million authorization for the program. **YES Failed 153-260**

> **106 3/6/08 H.R. 2857** An amendment to create a new Energy Conservation Corps to pay volunteers for projects that support energy conservation, infrastructure and transportation improvement, and emergency operations. **NO Passed 252-161**

> **107 3/6/08 H.R. 2857** Motion to table (kill) the Lungren, R-Calif., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Miller point of order that the Lungren motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee was not germane. The Lungren motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back immediately with an amendment substituting the text of the Senate-passed bill (H.R. 3773), which would extend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. **NO Passed 221-191**

> **108 3/10/08 H. Res. 537** Supporting designating and observing "National 9-1-1 Education Month." **YES Passed* 381-0**

> **109 3/10/08 H.R. 3196** Designating a post office in Port Jervis, N.Y. as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building." **YES Passed* 382-0**

> **110 3/10/08 H.R. 4166** Designating a post office in Lebanon, Mo., as the "Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex." **YES Passed* 382-0**

> **115 3/11/08 H. Res. 924** Congratulating Iowa State University of Science and Technology for 150 years of service as Iowa's land-grant university. **YES Passed* 405-0**

> **116 3/11/08 H.R. 3773** Motion to table (kill) the Price, R-Ga., appeal of the ruling of the chair that the Price draft resolution does not constitute a point of privilege under Rule IX of the House. The draft resolution would express the sense of the House that it should immediately consider a Senate-passed bill (H.R. 3773), which would amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. **NO Passed 218-192**

> **117 3/11/08 H.R. 2082** Passage, over President Bush's March 8, 2008 veto, of the bill to authorize classified amounts in FY2008 for 17 U.S. intelligence activities and agencies, including the CIA, the Office of the National Intelligence Director and the National Security Agency. It would authorize funds for the intelligence portion of the FY2008 emergency supplemental for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would apply the requirements of the U.S. Army Field Manual regarding interrogations to all federal agencies. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting (276 in this case) of both chambers is required to override a veto. A "nay" was a vote in support of the president's position. **NO Failed 225-188**

> **118 3/11/08 H. Res. 948** Congratulating the University of Kansas football team for winning the 2008 FedEx Orange Bowl and having the most successful year in program history.

Present Passed* 396-0

> **119 3/11/08 H. Res. 493** Congratulating the University of California, Los Angeles women's water polo team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Water Polo National Championship and the school on its 100th NCAA sports national title. **YES Passed* 400-0**

> **121 3/11/08 H. Res. 895** Motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on adoption of the rule (H. Res. 1031) to provide for automatic adoption of the resolution that would establish a new entity to receive alleged violations by House members and employees. Had the previous question been defeated, Republicans would have been permitted to offer an amendment to reform the Ethics Committee by adding non-Members to the committee and requiring the committee to either resolve complaints or forward them to the Department of Justice. **NO Passed 207-206**

> **122 3/11/08 H. Res. 895** Adoption of the self-executing rule (H. Res. 1031) to provide for automatic adoption of the resolution that would establish a new entity to receive alleged violations by House members and employees. **NO Passed 229-182**

> **125 3/12/08 H. Res. 1039** Motion to table (kill) the Boehner, R-Ohio, privileged resolution that would vacate House votes 121 and 122 on the grounds that House vote 121 was held open in violation of House Rules. **NO Passed 215-193**

> **128 3/12/08 H. Res. 1040** Motion to table (kill) the Boehner, R-Ohio, privileged resolu-

Charitable Giving continued from Page 1

Congress further extended the critical provisions of the bill."

In the final weeks of the legislative session of Congress, Blunt made sure the following provisions were included in the Charitable Giving Act that was extended through 2009:

1. Extended tax-free distributions from IRAs to charities (not to exceed \$100,000 per year) – saving taxpayers \$795 million;
2. Enhanced charitable deduction for donations of food inventories to food banks and pantries – saving taxpayers \$123 million;
3. Enhanced charitable deduction for donation of book inventories – saving taxpayers \$49 million;
4. Enhanced charitable deduction for donations of computer equipment – saving taxpayers \$365 million; and
5. Extension of the basis adjustment to stock of S Corporations making charitable contributions – saving taxpayers \$132 million.

tion that would call for an ethics committee investigation of Rep. David R. Obey, D-Wis., for his actions related to congressional earmarks. **NO Passed 219-193**

> **131 3/12/08 H.R. 5563** Authorizing \$62 billion for a number of national service programs, including the AmeriCorps and Volunteers

in Service to America programs. The bill proposes increasing spending by nearly \$2 billion.

NO Failed* 227-140

> **133 3/12/08 H. Res. 936** Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report, the first national report on transportation infrastructure, and supporting a new national plan for improving transportation. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> **134 3/12/08 S. 2733** Extending the authorization for Higher Education Act programs through April 30, 2008. **YES Passed* 411-4**

> **135 3/12/08 H.R. 3773** Motion to table (kill) the Price, R-Ga., appeal of the ruling of the chair that the Price draft resolution does not constitute a point of privilege under Rule IX of the House. The draft resolution expresses the sense of the House that it should immediately consider a Senate-passed bill (H.R. 3773), which would amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and that the House should not adjourn for its upcoming district work period before considering the bill. **NO Passed 222-192**

> **137 3/13/08 H. Con. Res. 312** Substitute amendment to raise taxes by \$1.1 trillion over five years and authorize spending of \$13.7 trillion over the same period. **NO Failed 126-292**

> **138 3/13/08 H. Con. Res. 312** Substitute amendment that would raise taxes by \$1 trillion over five years and authorize spending \$14.2 trillion over the same period. **NO Failed 98-322**

> **140 3/13/08 H. Con. Res. 312** Substitute amendment that would reduce taxes by \$513 bil-

The following are a few examples of how the Charitable Giving Act has helped bring much-needed money to charities through out Southwest Missouri:

- Jim Combs made a charitable gift from his IRA to Skaggs Hospital in Branson. Rather than taking the distribution from his IRA and paying a 40% tax, the law change allows his IRA to gift the funds directly to the hospital without tax consequences. Skaggs Hospital gets 100% benefit.
- Carroll Wuench found he had two IRAs after his wife passed away. After being told of the Charitable Giving Act he made a gift to Faith Lutheran Church. Wuench's brother, who lives in New York, hearing of the tax provision from Carroll, is also going to make a gift to his church.
- Brent Dunn, Vice President of the Missouri State University Alumni Foundation, reports 25 donations worth more than a half million dollars have come in under the Charitable Giving Act provision.

lion over five years (including repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax) and authorizing spending of \$12.6 trillion over the same period. It would place a moratorium on earmarks and establish procedures for a legislative line-item veto. **YES Failed 157-263**

> **141 3/13/08 H. Con. Res. 312** Allowing

up to \$1 trillion in discretionary spending in FY2009, plus \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$5.8 billion for hurricane recovery. It assumes a budget surplus in FY2012 and FY 2013. It calls on the Ways and Means Committee to report two reconciliation bills: a bill to reduce FY2009 revenue by \$70 billion, allowing for an alternative minimum tax "patch", offset over five years; and a bill to reduce mandatory spending by \$750 million over six years.

NO Passed 212-207

> **142 3/13/08 H. Res. 991** Commending the 69th Infantry Regiment for continually participating in the global war on terror since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. **YES Passed* 406-0**

> **145 3/14/08 H.R. 3773** Motion to concur with the Senate amendments to revise the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which governs electronic surveillance of foreign terrorism suspects, with an additional amendment. The House amendment strikes the immunity provisions for telecommunications companies who previously responded to government requests and instead provides for immunity only for future cooperation with government requests to assist with surveillance. The amendment creates a bipartisan commission to report on conducting surveillance on U.S. persons without obtaining FISA warrants. It also allows federal courts to hear classified information in civil suits against telecommunications companies. **NO Passed 213-197**

> **148 3/31/08 H.R. 2675** Conveying approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America. **YES Passed* 370-2**

> **149 3/31/08 H. Con. Res. 302** Supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. **YES Passed* 371-0**

> **150 4/1/08 H. Con. Res. 310** Expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman, an agent for the Underground Railroad during the civil war. **YES Passed* 416-0**

> **151 4/1/08 H. Res. 1005** Expressing support for Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **152 4/1/08 H. Res. 1021** Expressing support for National Women's History Month and honoring women and organizations in the United States that have fought for and continue to promote the teaching of women's history. **YES Passed* 413-0**

> **156 4/2/08 H.R. 5501** An amendment to direct the U.S. Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally coordinator and the U.S. Agency for International Development administrator to allow African postsecondary educational institutions to collaborate with U.S. postsecondary educational institutions, specifically historically black colleges and universities. **YES Passed 415-10**

> **157 4/2/08 H.R. 5501** Motion to recommit the bill to the Foreign Affairs Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to reduce the bill's authorization levels from \$50 billion for FY2009-2013 to \$30 billion. **YES Failed 175-248**

> **158 4/2/08 H.R. 5501** Authorizing \$50

billion, more than double current spending, from FY2009-2013 for programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, used to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria overseas. The bill would replace the current requirement that one-third of all HIV prevention funding go to abstinence education with balanced funding for abstinence, fidelity and condom programs. A report to Congress would be required if spending on abstinence and fidelity programs dropped below 50 percent of prevention spending in a given country. It would allow up to \$2 billion a year for the U.N. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria for FY2009 and 2010 and unspecified sums for FY2011-2013. **NO Passed 308-116**

> **159 4/3/08 H.R. 4847** Motion to recommit the bill to the Science and Technology Committee with instructions that it be reported back with an amendment protecting state and local fire departments from liability regarding installation of child car safety seats. **YES Failed 205-209**

> **160 4/3/08 H.R. 4847** Authorizing \$293 million for the U.S. Fire Administration through FY2012. The bill provides for training of fire service personnel in dealing with national catastrophes including incidents from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. It also supports educational programs raising awareness of installing fire sprinklers in residential buildings. **YES Passed 412-0**

> **161 4/8/08 H.J. Res. 70** Congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial and commemorating the contributions of its veterans and soldiers. **YES Passed* 393-0**

> **162 4/8/08 H.R. 2464** Extending the length of time for which grants may be awarded for projects that improve children's emergency medical services from three years to four years. It would authorize the following for the program: \$25 million in FY2009, \$26.3 million for FY2010, \$27.6 million for FY2011, \$29 million for FY2012 and \$30.4 million for FY2013. **YES Passed* 390-1**

> **163 4/8/08 S. 793** Reauthorizing through FY2012 a traumatic brain injury treatment program that provides research and rehabilitation grants to states. **YES Passed* 392-1**

> **166 4/9/08 H. Res. 1077** Calling on the government of China to end the crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protestors, working toward resolution with the Dalai Lama, allowing journalists access to Tibetan areas of China and releasing Tibetans imprisoned for nonviolently expressing opposition to the Chinese government. **YES Passed* 413-1**

> **168 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** An amendment to strike the language that defines the "values" for establishing the National Landscape Conservation System within the Bureau of Land Management. The vague language could result in contradictory guidance on the use of federal lands. **YES Failed 175-246**

> **169 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** An amendment to strike the language to define the values by which the Interior secretary should manage the National Landscape Conservation System and insert language to require the secretary to manage the system in accordance with each applicable law. **YES Failed 172-245**

> **170 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** An amendment to clarify that nothing in the bill is intended to hinder or restrict energy development within the National Landscape Conservation System. **YES Passed 333-89**

> **171 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** An amendment to clarify that nothing in the bill should be construed to affect a state's jurisdiction to manage fish and wildlife under state laws, including hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational shooting regulations, on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or to limit access to those activities. **YES Passed 416-5**

> **172 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** An amendment to stipulate that inclusion of lands in the National Landscape Conservation System would not affect grazing regulations. **YES Passed 214-207**

> **173 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language that nothing in the bill should affect the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment within the National Landscape Conservation System. **YES Failed 208-212**

> **174 4/9/08 H.R. 2016** Codifying the National Landscape Conservation System, comprised of approximately 27 million acres of areas considered to have significant value. The bill also includes within the system any area that Congress has already designated for preservation. The new system would impose a new statutory regulatory structure on top of the existing structures to manage federal lands. **NO Passed 278-140**

> **175 4/9/08 H.R. 2419** Motion to instruct House conferees to disagree to any provision in the bill that would result in a tax increase. **YES Passed 400-11**

> **176 4/9/08 H.R. 5489** Designating a post office in Gloucester, Va., as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office," for the late former Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-Va. (2001-2007). **YES Passed* 397-0**

> **177 4/9/08 H.R. 5472** Designating a post office in Indianapolis, Ind., as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building," for the late former Rep. Julia Carson, D-Ind. (1997-2007). **YES Passed* 401-0**

> **180 4/10/08 H. Res. 1038** Recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and honoring the department's employees for their efforts to protect the United States. **YES Passed* 406-3**

> **181 4/10/08 H. Res. 1092** Suspending "fast-track" requirements for considering a bill (H.R. 5724) to implement a U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement. **NO Passed 224-195**

> **182 4/10/08 H.R. 2537** An amendment to bar the use of funds in the bill for congressional earmarks. **YES Passed 263-117**

> **183 4/14/08 H. Res. 886** Expressing sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Arvada, Colo., and conveying gratitude to security officers and city and county officials who responded swiftly to the scene. **YES Passed* 380-0**

> **184 4/14/08 H. Res. 994** Supporting the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. **YES Passed* 377-0**

> **185 4/14/08 H.R. 3548** Requiring the federal government to use plain language in all

communications that explain how to file taxes or obtain government benefits or services. **YES Passed* 376-1**

> **188 4/15/08 H.R. 5036** Authorizing \$685 million to reimburse states and counties that convert to paper ballot voting machines before the November 2008 elections or need help paying for manual audits afterward. **NO Failed* 239-178**

> **189 4/15/08 H.R. 5719** Motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to require the IRS to increase efforts to ensure that illegal immigrants do not obtain earned income tax credits and provisions to bar tax exemptions for interest from bonds issued by state or local governments with "sanctuary city" policies that specify that government employees are not required to report illegal immigrants to federal officials. **YES Failed 210-210**

> **190 4/15/08 H.R. 5719** Making revisions to certain record-keeping requirements in the tax filing process and repealing the IRS's authority to use private companies to collect unpaid taxes. The bill repeals the requirement that taxpayers keep detailed records of calls made on cell phones provided by employers and requires that individuals get pre-approval or otherwise substantiate any withdrawal from their health savings accounts. **NO Passed 238-179**

> **191 4/15/08 H.R. 5517** Designating a post office in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office." **YES Passed* 413-0**

> **196 4/16/08 H.R. 2634** An amendment to change the criteria for debt relief eligibility to include requirements that countries must be complying with minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking, cooperating with U.S. efforts to stop illegal immigration and be committed to free and fair elections. **YES Passed 424-0**

> **197 4/16/08 H.R. 2634** An amendment to require countries to permit and have a government chosen by free elections in order to be eligible for debt forgiveness. **YES Passed 382-41**

> **198 4/16/08 H.R. 2634** Motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to bar countries with business relationships with Iran from being eligible for debt relief. **YES Passed 291-130**

> **199 4/16/08 H.R. 2634** Requiring the Treasury Department to negotiate with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other lending nations, to forgive debt owed by foreign countries. **NO Passed 285-132**

> **202 4/16/08 H. Res. 1097** Expressing support for designating "National Child Abuse Prevention Month." **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **203 4/17/08 H.R. 5715** An amendment to target loan limit increases to students in the most need, clarifying that the Education secretary can determine whether a school qualifies for loan help and specifying that income from loan sales would be used to make new loans, among other provisions. **YES Passed 413-0**

> **204 4/17/08 H.R. 5715** Increasing annual loan limits on federal college loans and giving the Education Department a bigger role in ensuring loan availability. The bill increases the amount of federal loans undergraduates can borrow from \$23,000 to \$31,000. Students

who are not dependents could borrow up to \$57,500, up from \$46,000. It would allow the Education Department to buy up existing loans at a discount and codify the department's ability to advance funds to guarantee agencies. **YES Passed 383-27**

> **205 4/22/08 H. Res. 981** Recognizing the first World Glaucoma Day and congratulate the American Glaucoma Society for its efforts to expand glaucoma awareness. **YES Passed* 387-0**

> **206 4/22/08 H.R. 5151** Designating three new federal wilderness areas and expand three existing wilderness areas within the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. Wilderness is the most restrictive federal land designation. **NO Passed* 368-17**

> **207 4/22/08 H.R. 831** Directing the Agriculture Department to convey 12 acres of land previously used by the National Forest Service to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska. **YES Passed* 382-0**

> **209 4/23/08 H.R. 5613** Placing a one-year moratorium until April 1, 2009, on the implementation of proposed new rules that would reform federal Medicaid payments to states. The process used to pass the bill prohibited amendment and full debate on \$1.6 billion in changes to Medicaid. **NO Passed* 349-62**

> **210 4/23/08 H. Con. Res. 322** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel. **YES Passed* 417-0**

> **220 4/24/08 H.R. 2830** An amendment to make the operation of any stateless submersible or semi-submersible vessel a federal crime, subject to fines, imprisonment or both. **YES Passed 408-1**

> **221 4/24/08 H.R. 2830** An amendment to clarify that the bill's marine safety provisions would not harm the Coast Guard's legal authority to carry out its homeland security mission. **YES Passed 408-0**

> **222 4/24/08 H.R. 2830** Motion to recommit the bill to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to extend an exemption regarding fire-retardant materials on the Delta Queen from November 2008 to November 2018. **YES Failed 195-208**

> **223 4/24/08 H.R. 2830** Authorizing \$8.4 billion in FY2008 for the Coast Guard, including \$5.9 billion for operations and maintenance, \$1.2 billion in mandatory spending for retired pay, and \$1.1 billion for acquisition and construction of vessels, aircraft, facilities and navigation aids. It would authorize 47,000 active duty personnel for the Coast Guard. It would also require several changes in the Deepwater program to replace aging ships and aircraft, such as more open competition for contracts and ordering performance measurements. The bill would set requirements for security around vessels that transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) and for LNG processing facilities. **YES Passed 395-7**

> **229 4/30/08 H.R. 1195** Concurring in the Senate amendment to amend the 2005 surface transportation law to make technical corrections and certain policy changes. The bill corrects errors in funding calculations for transportation research and increases the minimum state share

of total highway safety formula grants from 0.5 percent to 0.75 percent. It calls for a review by the Justice Department of allegations of federal criminal law violations regarding a \$10 million earmark for an interchange at Coconut Road and Interstate 75 in Lee County, Fla., which was altered in the 2005 measure after Congress cleared the bill. **YES Passed* 358-11**

> **234 5/1/08 H.R. 493** Concurring in the Senate amendment to prohibit insurance companies, employers, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating on the basis of genetic information. It would bar health plans from requiring genetic testing. Insurers could not adjust premiums or base enrollment decisions on genetic information. It also would provide legal protection to employers who contract with insurers to provide health insurance from being sued for a violation committed by the insurer. **YES Passed 414-1**

> **237 5/1/08 H. Con. Res. 308** Authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. **YES Passed* 412-0**

> **238 5/1/08 H.R. 2419** Instructing House conferees to agree to Senate-passed provisions that would set a \$40,000 per person limit for annual direct payments to farmers. **NO Failed 157-259**

> **239 5/1/08 H.R. 5715** Concurring in the Senate amendment to increase annual loan limits on federal college loans and giving the Education Department a bigger role in ensuring loan availability. The bill increases the amount of federal loans undergraduates can borrow from \$23,000 to \$31,000. Students who are not dependents could borrow up to \$57,500, up from \$46,000. It would allow the Education Department to buy up existing loans at a discount and codify the department's ability to advance funds to guarantee agencies. Any savings generated by the bill would be directed to Academic Competitiveness and SMART grants. It would sunset the Education Department's authority to designate institutions as lenders of last resort at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and require that loans through that program have similar terms and conditions as other federal loans. **YES Passed* 388-21**

> **240 5/5/08 H. Res. 952** Expressing a sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers. **YES Passed* 368-0**

> **242 5/5/08 H. Res. 1011** Condemning the Sudanese president's support of the armed rebellion in Chad, and calling for continued U.S. humanitarian assistance to refugees in Chad and the Central African Republic. It also urges the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to engage in dialogue to end the conflict with opposition groups. **YES Passed* 371-0**

> **247 5/6/08 H.R. 2419** Instructing House conferees to use the most recent baseline estimates supplied by the Congressional Budget Office when evaluating the costs of the bill's provisions to determine if it complies with House pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules. **YES Failed 172-241**

> **249 5/6/08 H.R. 3658** Allowing rest and recuperation travel and home leave for U.S.

Foreign Service personnel to American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. **YES Passed* 416-0**

> **251 5/6/08 H. Con. Res. 317** Denouncing the military regime's constitution and scheduled referendum in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, calling for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Buddhist monks and all other political prisoners, and urging the president to call for an arms embargo against the country's military regime. **YES Passed* 413-1**

> **253 5/6/08 H. Res. 1109** Honoring Dith Pran for his commitment to raising awareness about genocide that took place under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and remembering his life's work. **YES Passed* 413-1**

> **256 5/6/08 S. 2929** Extending the authorization for Higher Education Act programs through May 31, 2008. **YES Passed* 408-0**

> **258 5/6/08 H.R. 2419** Instructing House conferees to insist on language to maintain the House-passed funding allotment for three conservation programs: the Grassland Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. The motion also instructs conferees to agree to a Senate-passed provision to eliminate federal payments for crops planted on land with no previous cropping history. **NO Failed 140-274**

> **263 5/6/08 H.R. 1168** Commending U.S. charter schools for improving the pub-

lic school system and supporting the ninth annual National Charter Schools Week. **YES Passed* 391-2**

> **265 5/6/08 H. Res. 1155** Honoring recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship, a college scholarship program funded by Murphy Oil Corporation for high school graduates of the El Dorado Public School District in Arkansas. **YES Passed* 390-1**

> **269 5/7/08 H. Res. 1166** Calling on the Russian government to revoke its decision to establish official ties with the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions. It also supports Georgia's membership in NATO. **YES Passed* 390-23**

> **274 5/7/08 H. Res. 1113** Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day. **YES Passed* 412-0**

> **277 5/7/08 H.R. 5937** Allowing any new owner of the housing project Starrett City in Brooklyn, N.Y., to request from the Department of Housing and Urban Development that two subsidy contracts be converted into a new housing assistance contract. **NO Passed* 345-73**

> **293 5/7/08 H.R. 5818** An amendment to direct allocations of the bill's grants and loans to specific cities and counties and capping the purchase price of the foreclosed property at its current appraised value. **NO Passed 256-157**

> **294 5/7/08 H.R. 5818** An amendment to direct the loans and grants authorized by the bill to be administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office

of Community Planning and Development. **YES Passed 425-0**

> **295 5/8/08 H.R. 5818** An amendment to strike language providing for state grants and redirecting the \$7.5 billion in grants money to the loan portion of the bill. **YES Failed 190-219**

> **297 5/8/08 H.R. 5818** An amendment to clarify that illegal immigrants would be ineligible for financial assistance under the bill. **YES Passed 391-33**

> **298 5/8/08 H.R. 5818** Motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to bar anyone convicted of a drug dealing offense, a sex offense or mortgage fraud from buying homes made available through the bill's funds. It would give priority to loans and grants that would provide housing for veterans, teachers, law enforcement officers, firefighters and other first responders. **YES Failed 210-216**

> **299 5/8/08 H.R. 5818** Establishing a loan and grant program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for states to buy and rehabilitate foreclosed properties. The bill authorizes \$7.5 billion for zero-interest loans and \$7.5 billion for grants. The bill directs states to allocate funds to the 100 neediest cities and 50 most populous counties in the country. In addition, properties purchased for rental with the funds would serve families having incomes at or below the area's median income. **NO Passed 239-188**



DTV Transition and the Coupon Program

What is the digital television transition?

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

What is the TV Converter Box Coupon Program?

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes.

A TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service does not require a TV converter box.

Consumers have a variety of options. Options to explore include:

1. Keeping your existing analog TV and purchase a TV converter box. A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after Feb. 17, 2009, or
2. Connecting to cable, satellite or other pay service, or
3. Purchasing a television with a digital tuner.

Between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

- Apply online or download the coupon at <https://www.dtv2009.gov>
- Call the Coupon Program's toll-free 24-hour automated system 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).
- Mail a coupon application to: P.O. BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000.
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)
- Deaf or hard of hearing callers may dial 1-877-530-2634 (English/TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish/TTY) TTY Service is available from 8 AM - 8 PM Central Time Monday through Friday.

Please note: Each household is limited to two government-issued converter box coupons; the coupons have a 90-day life and cannot be reissued or reauthorized.



> **300 5/8/08 H.R. 4279** Consolidating federal efforts to counter piracy and counterfeiting of American-owned intellectual properties. **YES Passed* 410-11**

> **301 5/8/08 H.R. 3221** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 1. The House amendment incorporates provisions from six housing-related bills into one package. Among its provisions, the amendment expands the loan-guarantee program of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), overhauls the FHA's mortgage lending practices and designates certain agency surpluses for an affordable-housing fund. It overhauls regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, establishes an affordable housing trust fund and creates an independent Federal Housing Finance Agency to regulate Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. It provides legal protections for mortgage servicers who made certain loan modifications, permit federal savings associations to make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare through the provision of housing, services and jobs, and authorizes the Section 8 low-income housing voucher program through FY2012 and alters calculations of income. **NO Passed 226-154**

> **302 5/8/08 H.R. 3221** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 2. The House amendment provides a zero-interest, 15-year loan for first-time homebuyers, providing them up to \$7,500 for a home purchase over the next year. It provides a one-time \$350 deduction (\$700 for married couples) in 2008. It also increases temporarily the volume cap for the low-income housing tax credit, allowing states to allocate more credits to developers of low-cost housing. The amendment also raises taxes by delaying implementation of a previously enacted provision to eliminate the double-taxation of U.S. companies that also operate internationally. **NO Passed 322-94**

> **303 5/8/08 H.R. 3221** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 3. The House amendment clarifies that no provision in the underlying measure or two federal banking statutes -- the Home Owners' Loan Act or the National Bank Act -- could be construed to pre-empt any state law dealing with residential foreclosures. **NO Passed 256-160**

> **304 5/8/08 H.R. 2419** Instructing House conferees not to recede to provisions in the Senate-passed bill related to a permanent agriculture disaster assistance program. **YES Failed 128-274**

> **305 5/8/08 H.R. 2419** Instructing conferees not to agree to Senate-passed provisions to create a qualified tax credit forestry conservation bond program. **YES Failed 169-222**

> **306 5/13/08 H. Res. 1181** Expressing sympathy for the victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, and reaffirming the U.S. commitment to providing immediate aid to the storm's victims. It also urges the Myanmar government to accept international aid and to call off a referendum on the military regime's constitution. **YES Passed* 410-1**

> **307 5/13/08 H.R. 6022** Requiring the Interior and Energy departments to halt acquisition of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the end of 2008. The departments could re-

sume shipments if the president determined that the average price of oil in the United States for the most recent 90-day period was \$75 a barrel or less. **YES Passed* 85-25**

> **308 5/13/08 H.R. 4008** Providing legal protection to any person or business who printed an expiration date for a credit card on any receipt between Dec. 4, 2004, and the bill's enactment. **YES Passed* 407-0**

> **312 5/14/08 H. Res. 1134** Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mental Health Month. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **313 5/14/08 H. Res. 1176** Supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **314 5/14/08 H.R. 2419** Motion to recommend the bill to the conference committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to strike three sections relating the conveyance of National Forest System lands to a Vermont ski company, fisheries disaster assistance and qualified forestry conservation bonds that would benefit one company in Montana. **YES Failed 193-230**

> **315 5/14/08 H.R. 2419** Adoption of the conference report to reauthorize federal farm and nutrition programs for five years, including crop subsidies and food stamps, as well as conservation, rural development and agricultural trade programs. It authorizes a \$10 billion increase for nutrition programs, offset by extending customs user fees. It also cuts direct payment subsidies overall by \$313 million, by reducing the percentage of acres for which a farmer can collect those payments from 85 percent to 83.3 percent. Farmers making more than \$750,000 a year in farm-related income and those with more than \$500,000 a year in non-farm-related income would not be eligible for federal subsidies. It provides a \$65,000 limit for counter-cyclical payments, authorizes \$1.3 billion to enroll new acreage in the Wetlands Reserve Program and reduce the Conservation Reserve Program to 32 million acres. Country-of-origin labels for all meat would be required by September, 2008. It also extends the Milk Income Loss Contract program through FY2012 and provides a subsidy for the purchase of excess sugar in the U.S. market to make sugar-based ethanol. **YES Passed 318-106**

> **316 5/14/08 H. Res. 1133** Congratulating Winona State University on winning the 2008 Division II men's basketball championships. **YES Passed* 413-0**

> **319 5/14/08 H. Res. 1173** Recognizing the accomplishments of AmeriCorps members and alumni and encouraging citizens to participate in the AmeriCorps program. **YES Passed* 344-69**

> **320 5/14/08 H.R. 4040** Instructing conferees to insist on the provisions contained in the House-passed bill. **YES Passed 405-0**

> **321 5/14/08 S. Con. Res. 70** Instructing conferees to adjust budget levels to assume \$2 billion in increased revenues by expanding federal leases for oil exploration and development in the western federal lands, the Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **YES Failed 185-229**

> **322 5/14/08 H. Res. 789** Honoring the contributions of nonprofit public child welfare agencies. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **325 5/15/08 H.R. 5614** Authorizing the production of no more than 15,000 \$20 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle ultra-high relief bullion coins made of palladium. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **326 5/15/08 H.R. 406** Awarding a posthumous congressional gold medal in commemoration of Alice Paul and her work in women's suffrage and equal rights. **YES Passed* 412-1**

> **327 5/15/08 H.R. 5827** Requiring the Treasury to mint coins in 2010 commemorating the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America. **YES Passed* 403-8**

> **328 5/15/08 H.R. 2642** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 1. The House amendment provides \$162.5 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with \$96.6 billion for FY2008 and \$65.9 billion for FY2009. Under the procedures used to consider this amendment, the funding would then be combined with restrictions on our troops and unrelated domestic spending. Members voted present to protect funding for the troops being used in this manner. **Present Failed 141-149**

> **329 5/15/08 H.R. 2642** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 2. The House amendment requires a troop withdrawal from Iraq within 30 days of the bill's enactment, with a goal of completing the withdrawal of combat troops by December 2009. It requires Congress to authorize any agreement between the U.S. and the Iraqi government committing U.S. forces. The amendment requires the Iraqi government to match reconstruction aid and to sell fuel to the U.S. military at the same price it is sold to Iraqi consumers. The amendment defines under what conditions military commanders could deploy troops to Iraq. Such restrictions could result in longer tours of duty for some service members. It also compels all federal agencies to use only the interrogation techniques authorized in the Army Field Manual. **NO Passed 227-196**

> **330 5/15/08 H.R. 2642** Concurring in the Senate amendments with House amendment no. 3. The House amendment appropriates \$21.2 billion for domestic programs, military construction and foreign aid programs. It provides \$4.6 billion for military construction and \$5.8 billion for levee building in Louisiana. The amendment provides a permanent expansion of education benefits for post-Sept. 11 veterans. It imposes a new tax on small business owners and individuals with modified adjusted gross income above \$500,000 per year for individuals and \$1 million for couples. It also temporarily extends unemployment insurance benefits and places a moratorium through March 2009 on seven Medicaid regulations proposed by the administration. It appropriates \$9.9 billion for the State Department, USAID and international food assistance. **NO Passed 256-166**

> **331 5/20/08 H.R. 6081** Providing several new and extended tax benefits for military personnel, veterans, volunteer firefighters, emergency medical responders and other public servants. It allows certain military families, blind veterans and AmeriCorps volunteers not receiving Supplemental Security Income to do so. It also extends mental health parity provisions through 2008. **YES Passed* 403-0**

> **332 5/20/08 H.R. 6074** Making it ille-



The last major FEMA-funded project from the May 2003 tornado that hit Pierce City was completed this year. The Ray Carver Building was renovated at a cost of more than \$3 million. It is now home to Clark Community Mental Health and 50 employees.

gal for foreign countries to collectively manipulate energy prices or supplies and allow lawsuits against foreign countries for any such actions that affect the United States. It also establishes a task force to examine anticompetitive activities in the foreign oil market. The bill did not increase domestic energy supplies or reduce dependence on foreign oil. **NO Passed* 324-84**

> **333 5/20/08 H. Res. 144** Expressing support for the designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp. **YES Passed* 402-3**

> **335 5/20/08 H.R. 1464** Authorizing \$5 million annually between FY2008-2012 for a grant program for rare cat and dog conservation activities in foreign countries. **NO Passed 294-119**

> **336 5/20/08 H.R. 2649** Allowing the Interior Department to participate in the planning and provide as much as 25 percent of the funding for the second phase of a water treatment, recycling and reclamation project in the Olvienhain Municipal Water District in San Diego County, Calif. **NO Passed* 374-39**

> **337 5/20/08 H.R. 2774** Amending the Family and Medical Leave Act to allow airline crew members to be eligible to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn, newly-adopted child or sick family member, or to recover from serious health conditions. **YES Passed* 402-9**

> **343 5/21/08 H.R. 6049** Motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with a substitute amendment to extend the package of expiring tax credits, including the research tax credit, deductions for tuition and education expenses, and deductions for sales taxes in states without income taxes through 2013, removing the bill's offsets and extending alternative minimum tax exemption amounts through 2008. **YES Failed 201-220**

> **344 5/21/08 H.R. 6049** Extending dozens of expired or expiring tax provisions for one year, including the research tax credit, deductions for tuition and education expenses, and deductions for sales taxes in states without income taxes. It creates and extends several energy tax provisions, such as tax credits for wind and renewable-energy production and for investment in solar and fuel cell power plants. The bill also increases taxes by \$54 billion over 10 years. **NO Passed 263-160**

> **345 5/21/08 H.R. 1771** Establishing a grant program to protect crane populations and authorize \$5 million annually from FY2009-2013 for the program. **NO Passed 304-118**

Free Enterprise Organization Expands World Headquarters in Southwest Missouri

The world's largest university-based free enterprise organization, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), this year expanded their world headquarters in Springfield. SIFE is an international organization that works with students to develop socially responsible, free enterprise business skills.

"SIFE is the leading institution in the world in advancing the principles and practices of free enterprise," Congressman Roy Blunt said. "By expanding their headquarters here in Springfield they are showing their commitment to the region and to spreading American business principles on a global scale."

SIFE, located at the Jack Shewmaker World Headquarters in Springfield, reaches 2,000 college campuses in the United States and 45 nations.

In recent years, Blunt has worked to secure funding for SIFE to expand its operations. SIFE recently expanded to college campuses in Africa and Russia.



Among the dignitaries at the dedication of the expanded Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center were (left to right standing) Former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Senator John Ashcroft; Missouri State Representative Shane Schoeller; Jack Kahl, President & CEO, JackKahl & Associates; Doug Conant, President & CEO, Campbell Soup Company; Bob Plaster, Chairman, Evergreen Investments LLC from Lebanon, Missouri; Alvin Rohrs, President and CEO of SIFE and (kneeling) Jack Shewmaker, former President and CFO, Wal-Mart. Mr. Plaster passed away in October.

New Joplin Airport Terminal, Tower Begin Service

The Joplin Airport underwent major changes this fall with the addition of a new Federal Aviation Administration control tower and terminal building.

Congressman Roy Blunt provided the initial federal capital of \$1.4 million to begin terminal construction, and Missouri Senator Kit Bond helped secure \$3.5 million in 2005 to replace the aging tower with a 90 foot state-of-the-art air control facility. In total, the two secured about \$8 million for the needed improvements.

"Businesses often consider airports the determining factor when locating a new facility. This terminal shows that Joplin and the surrounding areas are open for business," Blunt said, referring to the new airport facilities as the "front door" to the community.

Bond also saw the airport improvements as a "symbol of future economic growth," explaining that "good transportation and good jobs go hand-in-hand."

Thanks to the new multi-million dollar terminal, Great Lakes Aviation was able to begin offering direct passenger flights to and from Kansas City.

terminal shows that Joplin and the surrounding areas are open for business," Blunt said, referring to the new airport facilities as the "front door" to the community.

Bond also saw the airport improvements as a "symbol of future economic growth," explaining that "good transportation and good jobs go hand-in-hand."

Thanks to the new multi-million dollar terminal, Great Lakes Aviation was able to begin offering direct passenger flights to and from Kansas City.



Joplin Airport Board Chairman Jim Zerkel and Joplin Aviation Director Steve Stockam look over improvements to the airport including the new FAA control tower over Stockam's left shoulder.

Congressman Blunt's Newtonia Battlefields Bill Becomes Law

Legislation authored by Congressman Blunt to study how to protect and preserve the Civil War battlefields at Newtonia was passed by Congress and signed into law this year.

Blunt's legislation would authorize a study by the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of either creating a new Civil War battlefield at Newtonia or bringing those battlefield lands under the management of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield. The park service previously rated the 1864 battle site a priority 1 location, and the neighboring 1862 battle area a priority 2 for protection from development.

Blunt, who first introduced the legislation in



The Ritchey Mansion suffered extensive damages in the May 2008 tornado that caused 18 deaths and millions in property damages. The Ritchey Mansion lost both chimneys, many trees and part of its roof. Immediate repairs have secured the old Civil War battlefield headquarters.

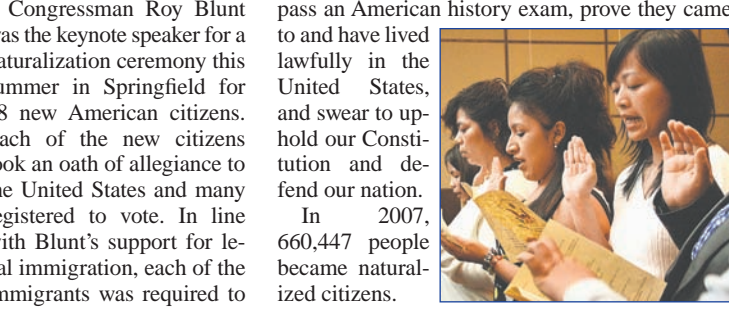
Repairs to the mansion were completed in September. "It's never looked better," one supporter of the Newtonia Battlefield said.

See [Newtonia Bill, Page 18](#)

Blunt Welcomes New Citizens

Congressman Roy Blunt was the keynote speaker for a naturalization ceremony this summer in Springfield for 38 new American citizens. Each of the new citizens took an oath of allegiance to the United States and many registered to vote. In line with Blunt's support for legal immigration, each of the immigrants was required to pass an American history exam, prove they came to and have lived lawfully in the United States, and swear to uphold our Constitution and defend our nation.

In 2007, 660,447 people became naturalized citizens.



Reeds Spring High School Wins Second Presidential Environmental Award

The Reeds Spring High School "Stream Team" won the President's Environmental Youth Award for their water stewardship project. In 2002, President Bush gave the school a national award for its 3R recycling program, making them the only high school in America to win two Presidential environment awards.

"Earning two distinguished awards from the President over such a short period of time is a clear demonstration of the hard-work and dedication of the students and faculty at Reeds Spring," Congressman Roy Blunt said. "Learning how to monitor our rivers and streams is important to our tourism and agriculture sectors that are so vital to our environment and the economy of the Ozarks."

Stream Team members collected water samples and analyzed water quality on a regular basis at specific sites on a local stream in Southwest Missouri. After collecting water samples, students returned to the school's laboratory to conduct tests for seven indicators of stream health: fecal coliform, pH, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, nitrates, phosphates, living organisms and clarity. Data was gathered, analyzed and sent to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for a state-wide water quality database.

Students researched and designed the water monitoring system used in this project and prepared maps, graphs, and spreadsheets of data to illustrate results of water testing. Stream Team members gave presentations to school staff and organizations to inform the community about protecting streams and how to become involved in improving the quality of Missouri's streams.

Pictured left to right: Daniel Seiler, President George W. Bush, Ross Carter, First Lady Laura Bush, Tia Poldori, Julia Pope. Picture by: Eric Vance



Farm Bill To Strengthen Food Banks, Pantries

The 2008 Farm Bill advocated by Congressman Blunt will benefit local food banks and pantries. Nutrition programs increased by \$10.36 billion in this year's Farm Bill, including \$1.25 billion in new assistance to food banks and new funding to boost organic agriculture, fruits and vegetable programs, and local food networks.

That is good news for the Ozarks Food Harvest which is celebrating it 25th anniversary. In those 25 years, the Ozarks Food Harvest has been recovering safe food that would otherwise be discarded. They store and then distribute the food items to a network of more than 350 shelters, soup kitchens, senior centers, pantries and daycares that serve



Bart Brown, Executive Director of the Ozarks Food Harvest, addresses 450 volunteers working at 350 member agencies in 29 Southwest Missouri counties.



See [Farm Bill, Page 16](#)

Greene, Jasper County Law Enforcement to Benefit from New Technologies

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt recently secured nearly \$2 million in federal grants to help the Greene and Jasper County Sheriffs' Departments upgrade their computer and communications systems, connecting multiple law enforcement agencies and improving response times and service in both day-to-day and emergency activities. The Ozark Police Department also received funding to upgrade computer systems in their patrol cars.

The result is that officers in the field will have instant access to warrant information, criminal records, license plate registrations and other valuable tools, as well as allowing officers to pre-book inmates, generate electronic tickets and file incident reports digitally and directly with the department or the Greene County Prosecutor's office.

"This is going to allow my office to go paperless, which will allow us to operate more efficiently," said Greene County Prosecutor Darrell Moore.

"Right now we spend a lot of time chasing down paper files. This will bring the prosecutor's office into the 21st century."

The Greene County Commission has committed a major investment of its own for software upgrades, licensing for the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) network, digital camera systems for all Greene County patrol vehicles and a data storage system. Greene County also developed a Records Management System for the Sheriff's Department and a Corrections Management System for the Greene County Jail. Both will be shared with all MDT network members, giving officers in the field instant access to warrant information, criminal records, license plate registrations, inmate booking



Greene County Prosecutor Darrell Moore explains most records are kept on note cards. In the future the information will be stored on police computers and easier to retrieve by officers in the field making traffic stops and other law enforcement operations.

"Access to information and reliable communications can be a matter of life-and-death in law enforcement," said Blunt. "These funds will go a long way toward ensuring our local law enforcement agencies have the tools and equipment they need to protect themselves, their neighbors and the communities they serve."

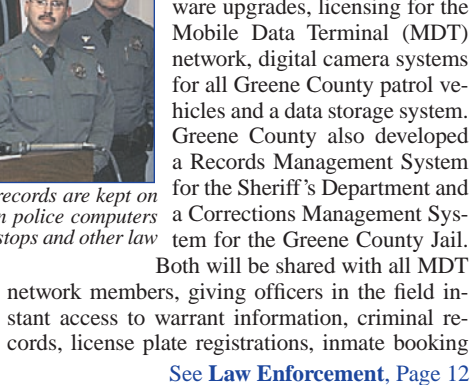
"The benefit of these grants goes far beyond just the Sheriff's Department, or any one law enforcement agency in the county," said Greene County Sheriff Jack Merritt. "These grants fund systems that allow officers from all the agencies in the county to do their jobs better and faster." The \$940,000 in federal funding that Blunt secured for Greene County will be used to integrate software systems used by the Sheriff's Department, the jail, the Greene County Prosecutor's Office, Greene County courts and the Greene County Juvenile Office, in order to move toward a more efficient, paperless system.

The result is that officers in the field will have instant access to warrant information, criminal records, license plate registrations and other valuable tools, as well as allowing officers to pre-book inmates, generate electronic tickets and file incident reports digitally and directly with the department or the Greene County Prosecutor's office.

"This is going to allow my office to go paperless, which will allow us to operate more efficiently," said Greene County Prosecutor Darrell Moore.

"Right now we spend a lot of time chasing down paper files. This will bring the prosecutor's office into the 21st century."

The Greene County Commission has committed a major investment of its own for software upgrades, licensing for the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) network, digital camera systems for all Greene County patrol vehicles and a data storage system. Greene County also developed a Records Management System for the Sheriff's Department and a Corrections Management System for the Greene County Jail. Both will be shared with all MDT network members, giving officers in the field instant access to warrant information, criminal records, license plate registrations, inmate booking



The Jasper County Sheriff's deputy demonstrates the new mobile data terminal that allows him to communicate with three counties from his patrol car.

Joplin's Range Line, Branson West's Bypasses Completed

After 15 years of construction and \$78 million of investment, Joplin's Range Line Bypass (Highway 249) began taking traffic in early October. The 6.2 mile, four-lane bypass includes four interchanges (Route 171 flyover ramps, Zora Avenue, Newman Road and Route 66) and 16 bridges. "The new roadway will save motorists 5 to 10 minutes in their commute into Joplin and make the drive much safer," Congressman Blunt said. The project, built atop land used 100 years ago for mining, required 9,108 cubic yards of grout to fill old mineshafts (an equivalent of two miles of two-lane road) and 58,710 feet of drilling for ground stabilization with 10,728 feet of steel.



The 2.6 mile long bypass in Branson West, connecting Highways 76 & 13 opened to traffic in late October. Congressman Blunt secured funding to pay for the improvements.

Congressman Blunt Visits with Service Academy Appointees, Families

Congressman Roy Blunt recently met with two students from Southwest Missouri enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point this summer. Matthew Bandy from East Newton High School near Granby and Joshua Marchisio, from McDonald County High School near Anderson, are now cadets at West Point.

Congressman Blunt, the father of Naval Academy graduate and Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, expressed his support for the two new cadets. "They are about to embark on a journey that will mold them into the leaders of the future," he said.



Jason Boatwright (center) from Webb City is starting his second year at West Point. He offers some advice to Matthew Bandy (seated to Boatwright's right) and Josh Marchisio (seated to Boatwright's left) about life at West Point.

The gathering of new students and upper classmen offers the new students and their families the opportunity to start building relationships and establishing networks with other academy families in the area. The new students and their parents will meet other families who can share their experiences and give them advice on how best to approach the military academy lifestyle.

Stone, Barry County Firefighters Upgrade Communications with \$532,000 in Federal Grants

Fire departments in southern Stone County and Wheaton have been chosen to receive nearly \$532,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The funds will be used to upgrade communications systems, equipping every firefighter in the two jurisdictions with a radio and the latest in communications technology.

"The large scale improvements in equipment and communication systems would not be possible without this program," Congressman Blunt said. "These funds will help improve the excellent service these men and women provide by allowing each department to purchase the needed equipment to protect themselves and the residents of Missouri they serve."

The \$373,500 federal grant for the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District is the key part of a \$415,000 overhaul and upgrade of the communications system of the state's third largest fire district. Southern Stone County Fire Protection District Chief Charlie Neubert told Congressman Blunt, "We had some dead spots in our communication system and some of our first-



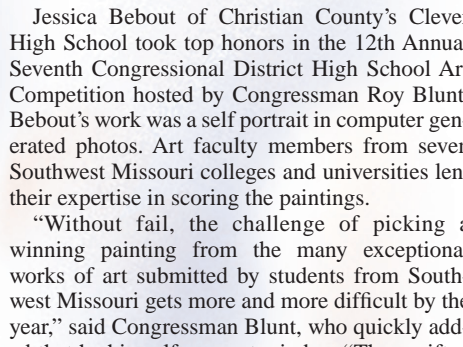
Members of the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District show their new radios to State Representative Dennis Wood (far right) and Congressman Blunt (not in photo).

See [Firefighters, Page 17](#)

Jessica Bebout of Clever High School Wins Blunt's 2008 Congressional Art Competition

Jessica Bebout of Christian County's Clever High School took top honors in the 12th Annual Seventh Congressional District High School Art Competition hosted by Congressman Roy Blunt. Bebout's work was a self portrait in computer generated photos. Art faculty members from seven Southwest Missouri colleges and universities lent their expertise in scoring the paintings.

"Without fail, the challenge of picking a winning painting from the many exceptional works of art submitted by students from Southwest Missouri gets more and more difficult by the year," said Congressman Blunt, who quickly added that he himself was not a judge. "These gifted



Winning artist Jessica Bebout of Clever High School and art teacher Mark Schmidt

See [Art Competition, Page 13](#)

Law Enforcement continued from Page 11

and other valuable tools.

In Jasper County, Sheriff Archie Dunn's department received a \$846,000 grant to expand the Cornerstone Regional Justice Information System. Sheriff Dunn explained, "The Cornerstone Regional Justice Information System takes information we are gathering and puts it out to the edge of the network, the cop on the street. It's actionable information in real time to the officer who needs it the most."

The grant will be used to tie the Jasper, Newton and Lawrence County sheriff's offices, police departments in Carthage, Neosho and more than a dozen other cities into a wireless computer network with software that allows them to share information in real time. Every patrol car would be equipped with a MDT, allowing officers to access information on every car they stop and every individual they come in contact with. Jasper County has put \$500,000 into the \$2 million system.

- > **346 5/21/08 H.R. 2419** Passage, over President Bush's May 21, 2008 veto, of the bill to reauthorize federal farm and nutrition programs for five years, including crop subsidies and food stamps, as well as conservation and rural development. It authorizes a \$10.4 billion increase for nutrition programs, offset by extending customs user fees. It also cuts direct payment subsidies overall by \$313 million, in part by reducing the percentage of acres for which a farmer can collect those payments from 85 percent to 83.3 percent. Farmers making more than \$750,000 a year in farm-related income and those with more than \$500,000 a year in non-farm-related income would not be eligible for federal subsidies. It provides a \$65,000 limit for counter-cyclical payments, authorizes \$1.3 billion to enroll new acreage in the Wetlands Reserve Program and reduces the Conservation Reserve Program to 32 million acres. Country-of-origin labels for all meat would be required by September 2008. It also extends the Milk Income Loss Contract program through FY2012. **YES Passed 316-108**
- > **347 5/21/08 H.R. 3819** Requiring the Veteran Affairs (VA) Department to pay for veterans' emergency treatment at non-VA hospitals until they can be transferred to a VA facility. The VA would reimburse veterans who paid out-of-pocket for care at a non-VA hospital while waiting for transfer. **YES Passed* 412-0**
- > **348 5/21/08 H.R. 5826** Increasing the rate of compensation for disabled veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans' families, starting Dec. 1, 2008. The rate increase would be equal to that of the increase for Social Security benefits. **YES Passed* 417-0**
- > **349 5/21/08 H.R. 5856** Authorizing several medical facility projects and medical facility leases for the Veterans Affairs Department for FY2009. **YES Passed* 416-0**
- > **352 5/22/08 H. Res. 1221** Motion to table (kill) the Boehner, R-Ohio, privileged resolution that would call for an investigation into the Democratic leadership's role in the inaccuracies in the process and enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2419)

- that would reauthorize federal farm and nutrition programs for five years. **NO Passed 220-188**
- > **353 5/22/08 H.R. 6124** Reauthorizing federal farm and nutrition programs for five years, including crop subsidies and food stamps, as well as conservation, rural development and agricultural trade programs. It authorizes \$10.4 billion increase for nutrition programs, offset by extending customs user fees. It also cuts direct payment subsidies overall by \$313 million, in part by reducing the percentage of acres for which a farmer can collect those payments from 85 percent to 83.3 percent. Farmers making more than \$750,000 a year in farm-related income and those with more than \$500,000 a year in non-farm-related income would not be eligible for federal subsidies. It provides a \$65,000 limit for counter-cyclical payments, authorizes \$1.3 billion to enroll new acreage in the Wetlands Reserve Program and reduces the Conservation Reserve Program to 32 million acres. Country-of-origin labels for all meat would be required by September 2008. It also extends the Milk Income Loss Contract program through FY2012 and provides a subsidy for the purchase of excess sugar in the U.S. market to make sugar-based ethanol. **YES Passed* 306-110**
- > **354 5/22/08 H. Res. 1194** Reaffirming strong support for the government of Lebanon under Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and expressing sympathy to the people of Lebanon for the conflict initiated by Hezbollah. **YES Passed* 401-10**
- > **355 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to increase by \$193 million funding authorized for the Future Combat Systems, to be offset by decreasing authorized funding levels for Navy research development, test and evaluation by \$30 million, Department of Defense military personnel by \$138 million and the Defense Health Program by \$25 million. **YES Failed 128-287**
- > **356 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to add \$719 million to the bill's authorization for the Missile Defense Agency, to be offset by a decrease of the same amount for the Defense Department's research, development, testing and evaluation activities. **YES Failed 186-229**
- > **357 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to reduce the bill's authorization for the Missile Defense Agency by \$966.2 million and increase authorized levels by \$75 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, \$592 million for weapons nonproliferation programs, \$30 million for education support to dependents of service members, \$30 million for family support of wounded service members, \$30 million for suicide prevention programs for service members and \$10 million for a pilot program to retrain wounded service members as military health professionals. **NO Failed 122-292**
- > **358 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to increase the bill's authorization for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Reliable Replacement Warhead program by \$10 million, offset by a decrease of the same amount in authorized funds for energy conservation on military installations. **YES Failed 145-271**
- > **359 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to provide that any agreement between the United States and the Iraqi government that obligates the United States to defend Iraq would have to

- be authorized by Congress or come in the form of a treaty requiring the consent of the Senate. **NO Passed 234-183**
- > **360 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to require the president to submit a report on the long-term costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including operational costs, reconstruction costs and health care benefits, through at least FY2068, within 90 days of the bill's enactment. **NO Passed 245-168**
- > **361 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to prohibit contractors from performing interrogations, but would allow contractors to serve as interpreters. **NO Passed 240-168**
- > **362 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to require interrogations of detainees of the Department of Defense to be videotaped or electronically recorded. It also requires the creation of uniform guidelines for such recording. **NO Passed 218-192**
- > **363 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** An amendment to require the Defense secretary to release to the public, upon request, the names, ranks, countries of origin, and other information about students and instructors of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, from FY2005 and beyond. **NO Passed 220-189**
- > **364 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** Motion to recommit the bill to the Armed Services Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language that would repeal a ban on federal purchases of unconventional fuels and require a study on using former military installations as locations for oil refineries. The language also would expand GI Bill education benefits to additional military service members and allow the benefits to be transferred to service members' spouses and children. **YES Failed 186-223**
- > **365 5/22/08 H.R. 5658** Authorizing \$601.4 billion for defense programs in FY2009, including \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would authorize \$154.5 billion for operations and maintenance; \$124.7 billion for military personnel; \$24.4 billion for military construction and family housing and base closings; \$24.7 billion for the Defense Health Program and \$10.2 billion for missile defense. It would authorize a 3.9 percent pay raise for military personnel. The bill would block the closing of Walter Reed Army Medical Center unless the Defense Department provides more information about plans to relocate the hospital's services. **YES Passed 384-23**
- > **366 5/22/08 H. Res. 986** Calling upon Americans to show gratitude for the courage and sacrifice for the military members held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. It also calls for a full account of the 1,729 military members who remain unaccounted for. **YES Passed* 394-0**
- > **367 6/3/08 H. Con. Res. 138** Supporting the annual National Men's Health Week. **YES Passed* 362-0**
- > **368 6/3/08 H. Res. 923** Congratulating Minnesota on its 150th anniversary and the contributions it makes to America's economy and heritage. **YES Passed* 363-0**
- > **369 6/3/08 H. Res. 1114** Supporting the goals and ideas of the Arbor Day Foundation and the observation of National Arbor Day. **YES Passed* 364-0**

- > **372 6/3/08 H.R. 1343** Authorizing \$14.1 billion from FY2008-2012 for the community health centers program. The bill also authorizes \$25 million from FY2009-2011 for an integrated health systems project to improve access to care in underserved areas. **YES Passed* 393-24**
- > **373 6/4/08 H.R. 5669** Reauthorizing the Poison Center's national toll-free number, national media campaign and grant program through FY2014. The bill would authorize \$2 million annually for FY2000-2009, and \$1 million annually for FY2010-2014 for the toll-free number. It also authorizes \$600,000 annually for FY2000-2005, sums as necessary for FY2006-2009, and \$1.5 million annually for FY2010-2014 for the media campaign. **YES Passed* 405-10**
- > **374 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** An amendment to expand the use of funds to include building bicycle related infrastructure and bar states from counting the grants against schools when calculating state aid eligibility. **NO Passed 260-151**
- > **375 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** An amendment to bar the use of funds in the bill to purchase carbon offsets. **YES Passed 397-17**
- > **376 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** An amendment to allow funding authorized by the bill to be used for renewable energy generation and heating systems, such as solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, biomass and wood pellet systems. **YES Passed 409-5**
- > **377 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** An amendment to require schools to report if flooring was installed whether it was made with low- or non-Volatile Organic Compounds or with sustainable materials and whether it was cost effective. **NO Passed 266-153**
- > **378 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** Motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language that would allow schools whose energy costs have risen more than 50 percent since January 2007 to use funds authorized in the bill for maintenance. **YES Failed 187-230**
- > **379 6/4/08 H.R. 3021** Creating a new \$6.4 billion federal program to modernize and make repairs to public schools, and \$100 million per year from FY2009 through 2013 for repairs to public schools damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It would require all repairs to be carried out according to "green" building standards, such as those set by the government's Energy Star rating system. The measure would authorize the grants based on the same percentages of funds public schools receive under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **NO Passed 250-164**
- > **382 6/5/08 S. Con. Res. 70** Adoption of the conference report on the budget resolution to allow up to \$1.1 trillion in discretionary spending for FY2009, including \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$5.8 billion for hurricane recovery. It would allow \$537.8 billion for defense discretionary spending. Non-defense discretionary spending would be at \$482 billion and advanced FY2010 funding would be limited at \$28.9 billion. Over five years the budget would exceed the President's request by \$241 billion. It would raise taxes by at least \$683 billion over five years. In addition, it would raise the national debt limit by \$800 billion to \$10.6 trillion. Final-

Art Competition continued from Page 11

students were guided by the skills and inspiration of Southwest Missouri's best art instructors. I'm impressed by the level of artistic achievement our Southwest Missouri high school students produce."

Blunt made special note of Monett art teacher John Bremer, who is retiring after 41 years in the classroom — the last 27 years at Monett. His student, Amy Hall, won one of the two honorable mentions in the competition. Clever High School art teacher, Mark Schmidt, a mentor of Bebout, was

a student under Bremer at Monett. Hall, Monett High School's valedictorian this year, submitted an untitled acrylic that will be on display in Congressman Blunt's Constituent Services Office in Joplin. Bebout's winning entry is on display at the U.S. Capitol complex for the next year.

Judges also awarded an honorable mention to Springfield Glendale High School senior Kyla Byers. Her collage can be seen in Congressman Blunt's Constituent Service Center in Springfield.

ly, the budget called for no reform to entitlement programs. **NO Passed 214-210**

> **383 6/5/08 H.R. 5940** Authorizing \$1.5 million for the National Nanotechnology Initiative to coordinate research, development and education in the field of nanotechnology. The funds would come from 13 supporting federal agencies. It requires the initiative's coordination office to develop a publicly accessible database regarding projects funded by the agencies. **YES Passed* 407-6**

> **387 6/5/08 H.R. 3058** Allowing counties to receive direct government payments in lieu of a percentage of revenues from economic activities, such as logging, on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands within their boundaries. The bill creates a new formula to allocate funds to counties based on historical funding, the county's amount of federal lands, and the county's economic conditions. It imposes a new fee on producing and non-producing federal oil and gas drilling leases in the Gulf of Mexico. These new fees — totaling \$7.5 billion over the next ten years — would likely be passed along to consumers in the form of higher gas prices. **NO Failed* 218-193**

> **388 6/9/08 H. Res. 1225** Supporting the designation of National Safety Month and recognizing the National Safety Council's contributions to raise awareness about safety in schools and jobs. **YES Passed* 379-0**

> **389 6/9/08 H. Res. 1243** Calling on fathers to spend Father's Day with their children and encouraging their active involvement in the rearing and development of their children. **YES Passed* 373-0**

> **390 6/9/08 H. Res. 127** Recognizing the 50th anniversary of Alaska as a state. **YES Passed* 375-0**

> **393 6/10/08 H.R. 6028** Authorizing \$1.1 billion over FY2008-2010 to help train and equip Mexican armed forces and law enforcement agencies to control drug trafficking and organized crime, and to strengthen Mexico's judicial system. The bill also authorizes \$405 million for FY2008-2010 for assistance to several countries in Central America. **YES Passed* 311-106**

> **394 6/10/08 H. Res. 1063** Recognizing the 225th anniversary of relations between the United States and Great Britain and looking forward to a continued strong relationship between the countries. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **395 6/10/08 H. Con. Res. 318** Supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation and recognizing the importance of sanitation to public health. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> **396 6/10/08 H. Con. Res. 336** Supporting the goals and ideals of Disabled American Veterans' Week and recognizing the sacrifices made by disabled veterans and their families. **YES Passed* 417-0**

> **397 6/11/08 H.R. 6003** An amendment to bar Amtrak from using funds authorized by the bill for the Amtrak route with the highest cost/greatest subsidy. It would permit the use of the authorized funds on the route if the Transportation Department provides a waiver, asserting the route is critical to homeland security. **YES Failed 150-275**

> **398 6/11/08 H.R. 6003** An amendment to authorize \$1.5 billion for grants from FY2009-2018 for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to help finance maintenance and preventive projects. WMATA could not receive the grants until it ensures that Metrorail customers have access to wireless services from licensed providers. The grants would be contingent upon the local participating governments providing a dedicated funding source to match the federal funding appropriated in a given year. **YES Passed 295-127**

> **399 6/11/08 H.R. 6003** Motion to recommit the bill to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to require a study to investigate alternative fuels for locomotives. **YES Failed 194-230**

> **400 6/11/08 H.R. 6003** Authorizing \$14.4 billion for Amtrak over five years, including \$3 billion for operating assistance, \$4.2 billion for capital grants and \$1.7 billion for Amtrak to pay down its debts. The bill also authorizes grants for financing capital costs in certain high-congestion corridors. It requires changes in Amtrak's managements, operations and general policy regarding intercity passenger rail service. The Transportation Department would be directed to implement a high-speed rail corridor program and to solicit proposals for a high-speed rail system between Washington, D.C. and New York City. **NO Passed 311-104**

> **401 6/11/08 H. Res. 1258** Motion to refer the Kucinich, D-Ohio, privileged resolution to the Judiciary Committee. The Kucinich resolution would bring articles of impeachment against President George W. Bush for "high crimes and misdemeanors." **NO Passed 251-166**

> **402 6/11/08 H. Res. 1235** Supporting the designation of National D-Day Remembrance Day, honoring the veterans who served on D-Day and thanking them for their spirit, courage and sacrifice. **YES Passed* 406-0**

> **403 6/11/08 H.R. 5749** Extending temporary unemployment benefits for individuals who have exhausted their current compensation. The bill provides an additional 13 weeks in all states regardless of their unemployment rate, plus another 13 weeks of extended benefits in states with high unemployment rates. The bill did not include a requirement that individuals receiving extended benefits have worked a minimum of 20 weeks prior to being unemployed. Similar provisions have been in place since 1981 and absent such a requirement an individual could work as little as two weeks and receive a full-year of unemployment benefits. **NO Failed* 279-144**

> **404 6/11/08 H. Res. 977** Encouraging Americans to use their rebate checks from the stimulus package to purchase American-made goods and services from American-owned companies. **YES Passed* 404-6**

> **409 6/12/08 H.R. 1553** Authorizing \$30 million a year between FY2008-2012 for pediatric cancer research and awareness initiatives. **YES Passed* 416-0**

> **410 6/12/08 H.R. 5749** Motion to table (kill) the Weller, R-Ill., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Weller point of order that the bill does not comply with House pay-as-you-go rules. **NO Passed 217-185**

> **411 6/12/08 H.R. 5749** Motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to require individuals to work 20 weeks to qualify for the extended benefits, allowing for additional money to the newly hired to help with gasoline prices; and targeting the extended benefits to states with high unemployment rates. **YES Failed 170-243**

> **412 6/12/08 H.R. 5749** Extending temporary unemployment benefits for individuals who have exhausted their current compensation. Residents of all states would get an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits, on top of the 26 weeks already authorized under law. Residents of states with unemployment rates at or above 6 percent would get an additional 13 weeks, totaling one year of benefits. The weekly compensation under the extension would equal the amount received under regular compensation. The extended benefit program would expire March 31, 2009. The bill did not include a requirement that individuals receiving extended benefits have worked a minimum of 20 weeks prior to being unemployed. Similar provisions have been in place since 1981 and absent such a requirement an individual could work as little as two weeks and receive a full-year of unemployment benefits. **NO Passed 274-137**

> **413 6/12/08 S. 2146** Authorizing the EPA to accept diesel emission reduction supplemental environmental projects as part of a settlement of an alleged violation of an environmental law or regulation. **YES Passed* 406-0**

> **414 6/17/08 H.R. 2946** Banning the interstate sale or transportation of monkeys. **NO Passed* 302-96**

> **415 6/17/08 H.R. 3702** Requiring the Interior Department to convey 9.67 acres of National Forest System land to Jefferson County, Mont. **YES Passed* 396-0**

> **416 6/17/08 H. Res. 1275** Honoring the life and accomplishments of journalist Timothy

J. Russert Jr., who died June 13, 2008, and expressing condolences to his family members and friends. **YES Passed* 395-0**

> **417 6/18/08 H.R. 6124** Passage, over President Bush's June 18, 2008 veto, of the bill to reauthorize federal farm and nutrition programs for five years, including crop subsidies and food stamps, as well as conservation, rural development and agricultural trade programs. It authorizes a \$10.4 billion increase for nutrition programs, offset by extending customs user fees. It also cuts direct payment subsidies overall by \$313 million, in part by reducing the percentage of acres for which a farmer can collect those payments from 85 percent to 83.3 percent. Farmers making more than \$750,000 a year in farm-related income and those with more than \$500,000 a year in non-farm-related income would not be eligible for federal subsidies. It provides a \$65,000 limit for counter-cyclical payments, authorizes \$1.3 billion to enroll new acreage in the Wetlands Reserve Program and reduces the Conservation Reserve Program to 32 million acres. Country-of-origin labels for all meat would be required by September 2008. It also extends the Milk Income Loss Contract program through FY2012 and provides a subsidy for the purchase of excess sugar in the U.S. market to make sugar-based ethanol. **YES Passed 317-109**

> **418 6/18/08 H.R. 6063** An amendment to allow NASA to procure conventional fuels that contain incidental amounts of unconventional fuels. **YES Passed 429-1**

> **419 6/18/08 H.R. 6063** An amendment to establish a scholarship program for women pursuing higher education degrees in fields related to NASA's missions, in memory of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who died in the Challenger disaster. Recipients of the scholarship would receive \$10,000 per year. **YES Passed 423-3**

> **420 6/18/08 H.R. 6063** Motion to recommit the bill to the Science and Technology Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to create a private sector prize for improving energy independence through technology and allow NASA to procure alternative fuels. **YES Failed 196-225**

> **421 6/18/08 H.R. 6063** Reauthorizing \$20.2 billion for NASA in FY2009, including \$6.1 billion for space operations and \$1 billion to accelerate research and development of new space exploration vehicles. It directs NASA to conduct safety reviews, monitor near-Earth objects, plan to return Americans to the moon, and review the causes of increasing costs related to spacecraft missions. The bill reaffirms congressional support for continued exploration of Mars and requires NASA to complete planned space shuttle missions before retiring the shuttle. **NO Passed 409-15**

> **422 6/18/08 H. Res. 1002** Supporting the designation of a Public Radio Recognition Month and encouraging the celebration of America's public radio stations. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **425 6/19/08 H.R. 5710** Authorizing \$327 million for the construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System. **YES Passed* 301-124**

> **426 6/19/08 H.R. 5781** Manager's amendment that, among other things, would eliminate a requirement for a study of the feasibility and

Constituent Success Stories

★ Private First Class John M. Kalita (pictured second from the left) waited more than 60 years to receive the Bronze Star he earned while serving in the World War II European Theater in 1945. He asked for help from Congressman Roy Blunt's advocate Jon Bledsoe (far left) who worked to obtain the military medal. Also in the picture, Col. Gary Herschenroeder, ROTC Department Head at College of the Ozarks, Peggy Ellis of Gary Indiana, Kalita's daughter and Private Kalita's nephew, Command Sergeant Major Mike Malast (US Air Force ret.) of Indianapolis, Indiana.



information or medal he may have earned. What came back from the Record Center were fire-singed records due to a fire in 1973. Also received were seven medals and awards for the World War II veteran. The lady was so moved by the material she received on her late father, she wept.

★ A Lawrence County couple attempting to adopt a 13-year-old child in China they were concerned by an approaching deadline that may have halted the adoption. Congressman Blunt's office sent an e-mail seeking expedited consideration for the adoption. In less than 30 days the expedited petition was approved for the adoption, keeping it on track.

★ A Rogersville family filed a Privacy Act Release Form with Congressman Blunt because they were six years behind in filing taxes while serving as missionaries in Russia. The family believed they had overpaid their taxes and asked for a refund. The IRS declined to make refunds after more than two years of discussions. Working with the Taxpayer Advocate, Congressman Blunt learned the IRS relented and agreed to refund more than \$5,000 in tax overpayments.

★ An Army veteran from Springfield came to Congressman Blunt's advocate Jon Bledsoe seeking help with a debt from the VA, who wanted reimbursement of funds from his non-service connected pension. Blunt's office helped him request a waiver to pay back more than \$25,000. After several attempts to negotiate a resolution with the VA, it was determined that the pension was not obtained fraudulently and the waiver was granted.

★ When a 100% service-connected disabled veteran remarried, he tried unsuccessfully for a year to get the VA to add his new family members to his benefits. He came to Congressman Blunt for help. Within three weeks, the VA added his new dependents to his benefit and issued a \$2,100 back-payment.

★ A woman caring for her disabled World War II veteran father came to Congressman Blunt to get promised benefits that were to begin in October 2007, but had not yet been received nine months later. Only two weeks later the VA recognized the lapse and began paying benefits for nursing home care. It came just in time; family funds had expired to maintain care for the 78 year old veteran.

★ Ernest Cowherd of Purdy also received his Bronze Star from World War II service after being wounded 63-years ago in the leg and hip while serving in the Philippines. Cowherd's grandson, finding the Bronze Star missing from his World War II medals, encouraged his grandfather to apply for the medal he earned, but never received. Congressman Blunt's office was contacted for help in that effort and the Bronze Star arrived in the mail within 60 days.

★ A Stone County property owner challenged and won reestablishment of his original property boundaries with the U.S. Forest Service but was never reimbursed for the \$784 in out of pocket expenses. He turned to Congressman Blunt, who wrote the Secretary of Agriculture. The secretary authorized the reimbursement of the constituent's expenses.

★ Two students from Missouri Southern State University were headed to Chile as part of an exchange program when each learned they needed a visa requiring an FBI background check. Learning of the problem, Congressman Blunt's office arranged for the two women to be fingerprinted by the FBI. With only four weeks before departure and the average visa processing time at four weeks, Blunt's constituent advocates requested consideration for expedited services and overcame the deadline with two weeks to spare.

★ A Republic woman sought help from Congressman Blunt for what was reported to be a delinquent loan from the USDA. Congressman Blunt's office learned it was an accounting error. The Rural Development agency reversed the error, and posted her payments, showing the account current. The inquiry was completed within 30 days. The error was also reported to credit reporting agencies to show her account as "in good standing."

★ A Springfield resident came to Congressman Blunt to acquire her deceased father's military records which were lost in a house fire. Congressman Blunt's constituent advocate, Sue Ellen Ball, contacted the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis and asked for any

desirability of offering an insurance benefit to federal employees that would provide wage replacement during absences related to a health condition. It also provides that the bill's requirements not apply to births occurring within six months of the bill's enactment.

YES Passed 422-0

> **427 6/19/08 H.R. 5781** Motion to commit the bill to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language that would bar employees who do not comply with court-ordered child support arrangements from being eligible for the paid leave provisions.

YES Failed 206-220

> **428 6/19/08 H.R. 5781** Providing that four of the 12 weeks of parental leave given to federal and congressional employees would be paid leave. Employees could also use accrued annual or sick leave for parental leave and would not be required to demonstrate a medical need for using their sick time for that purpose. The bill also would authorize the Office of Personnel Management to extend the parental leave period for up to eight weeks.

NO Passed 278-146

> **430 6/19/08 H. Res. 1230** Calling on all Zimbabwean security forces, informal militias and individuals to immediately cease their attacks and condemn the orchestrated campaign of violence conducted by the ruling party.

YES Passed* 412-1

> **431 6/19/08 H.R. 2642** Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to appropriate \$165.4 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including \$99.5 billion for military operations for FY2008 and \$65.9 billion for FY2009.

YES Passed 268-155

> **432 6/19/08 H.R. 2642** Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment with an additional amendment. The House amendment would appropriate \$21.1 billion for domestic programs, including \$2.7 billion for disaster relief in the Midwest and \$5.8 billion for FY2009 to rebuild levees in Louisiana. It would provide for a permanent expansion of education benefits for post-Sept. 11 veterans and cut \$3.6 billion from funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to fund domestic programs. It also would temporarily extend unemployment insurance benefits and place a moratorium through March 2009 on six Medicaid regulations proposed by the administration. The amendment requires the Iraqi government to match reconstruction aid and prohibit establishing a permanent base in Iraq. It provides \$4.6 billion for military construction, and \$6 billion for the State Department, USAID and international food assistance in FY2008 and \$4.1 billion in FY2009.

YES Passed 416-12

> **433 6/19/08 H. Res. 1029** Congratulating Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez for his successes in golf, commending him for exemplary conduct as a private citizen and for a life devoted to service of others, and expressing gratitude for his service as a role model.

YES Passed* 415-0

> **437 6/20/08 H.R. 6304** Overhauling the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which governs electronic surveillance of foreign terrorism suspects. The bill allows the attorney

general and director of national intelligence to jointly authorize, for up to one year, investigations involving surveillance targeting those who are not U.S. persons and who are reasonably believed to be outside the United States. The FISA court would have to approve procedures for conducting the surveillance. Under the bill, warrantless surveillance would be allowed as long as it does not intentionally target U.S. persons or persons located within the United States, excluding foreign agents. It allows for retroactive liability immunity for telecommunications companies alleged to have participated in the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program. The bill's provisions sunset on Dec. 31, 2012, but warrants would remain in effect until they expire.

YES Passed 293-129

> **438 6/23/08 H. Res. 1242** Honoring the 100th anniversary of Louis Jordan's birth and recognizing his contributions to American music as a musician, composer and entertainer.

YES Passed* 348-0

> **439 6/23/08 H. Con. Res. 372** Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month, honoring the contributions that African-American singers and musicians have made, and calling on Americans to celebrate African-American music.

YES Passed* 353-0

> **440 6/23/08 H. Res. 1051** Congratulating James Madison University for 100 years of leadership and service to Virginia and the United States.

YES Passed* 354-0

> **443 6/24/08 H.R. 6331** Replacing a 10.6 percent cut in payments to physicians treating Medicare patients, scheduled to take effect on July 1, by holding payments at current rates for 18 months and providing for a 1.1 percent increase in 2009 and then cutting payments thereafter. The bill provides an additional \$4 billion over five years and \$16.6 billion over 10 years for changes to Medicare beneficiary programs and eliminates a higher co-payment rate for Medicare outpatient psychiatric services. It would be partially offset by requiring private "fee for service" plans to form networks with health care providers, thereby slowing the plans' rate of growth by eliminating private "fee for service" in many rural areas.

NO Passed* 355-59

> **444 6/24/08 H.R. 5876** An amendment to strike the exclusion of psychiatric residential treatment facilities and the exclusion of foster care group homes from the bill's definition of residential treatment programs. The amendment also eliminates required unannounced site inspections of covered programs at least once every two years, and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report to Congress on the activities of the national toll-free hotline established in the bill.

YES Passed 422-0

> **447 6/24/08 H.R. 6327** Extending through Sept. 30 the Federal Aviation Administration's authority to collect certain aviation-related taxes deposited in the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and the authority to spend those funds on certain FAA programs. It also provides contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program for the rest of FY2008.

YES Passed* 422-0

> **448 6/24/08 H.R. 6346** Prohibiting "unconscionably excessive" prices (an undefined term) for fuels in areas experiencing an energy emergency. Those selling fuel would be subject to

set civil and criminal penalties and states would be permitted to bring lawsuits against retailers.

NO Failed* 276-146

> **454 6/25/08 H.R. 6275** Motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to eliminate tax increases in the bill, and increase the deductions in mileage rates for vehicles used for charitable purposes to the same level as medical travel and moving rates.

YES Failed 199-222

> **455 6/25/08 H.R. 6275** Providing a one-year adjustment to prevent an additional 21 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax (AMT) on 2008 income. It increases the exemption amounts used in calculating the AMT and extends a provision that allows certain non-refundable credits to be claimed against the tax. The bill raises taxes on U.S. employers by \$62 billion. **NO Passed 233-189**

> **456 6/25/08 H.R. 3546** Authorizing \$1.1 billion annually for FY2008-2012 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, which awards grants to states for criminal justice programs. **YES Passed* 406-11**

> **457 6/25/08 H.R. 2176** Motion to table (kill) the Hensarling, R-Texas, appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Rahall point of order that the Hensarling motion to recommit the bill to the Natural Resources Committee was not germane. The Hensarling motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to repeal alternative fuel procurement requirements for federal agencies. **NO Passed 226-189**

> **458 6/25/08 H.R. 2176** Ratifying a land claims settlement between the state of Michigan and two Michigan Indian tribes, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The bill allows the tribes to operate a gambling facility on the new parcel of land in Port Huron, Mich., in exchange for the tribes relinquishing their claim to a 110-acre parcel of land in Charlotte Beach, Mich. **NO Failed 121-298**

> **459 6/25/08 H.R. 6358** Establishing new federal regulations for private residential programs that focus on serving children with emotional, behavioral or mental health problems, or problems with alcohol and substance abuse. Such programs are currently state regulated. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Department to enforce health and safety standards for children in such programs. The bill authorizes \$15 million to implement the bill's provisions from FY2009-2013. **NO Passed* 318-103**

> **460 6/25/08 H.R. 3195** Amending the Americans with Disabilities Act to redefine a disability as a physical or mental impairment that materially restricts one or more major life activities. It extends protections to people with disabilities not immediately evident in the workplace, such as those of the immune, digestive and neurological systems. People with minor or short-term disabilities, and those that could be corrected with contact lenses or glasses, would be exempt from protections. It clarifies that the effects of "mitigating measures," such as hearing aids and prosthetics, could not be used in weighing how a person's disability affects life activities.

YES Passed 402-17

> **461 6/25/08 H.R. 4040** Motion to instruct conferees to insist on the provisions contained in the House-passed bill regarding the definition of "children's product." **YES Passed 415-0**

> **464 6/26/08 H. Res. 1291** Supporting the goals, ideals and deeds of the American GI forum, recognizing the forum's 60th anniversary, and recognizing the need for equal access to veterans' benefits for all who have served. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **465 6/26/08 H.R. 6052** An amendment to allow federal agencies to contract to purchase a generally available fuel that is not alternative or synthetic, or produced from a non-conventional source if the contract does not require providing alternative fuels, the contract's purpose is not to obtain alternative fuels, and the contract does not provide incentives for a refinery upgrade or expansion. **YES Passed 421-0**

> **466 6/26/08 H.R. 6052** Motion to recommit the bill to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to direct funds from the bill's grants to be used for school bus transportation with preference to rural areas where the buses travel greater distances and are adversely affected by high fuel prices. **YES Failed 199-221**

> **467 6/26/08 H.R. 6052** Authorizing \$1.7 billion for grants in FY2008 and 2009 for transit agencies that reduce fares or expand public transportation services, as well as an additional \$750 million each year for urbanized area formula grants, and \$100 million per year for formula grants to rural areas. Transit agencies could use the grants to offset the increased cost of fuel and educate commuters on transportation alternatives. The bill allows federal funds to be used to cover a greater portion of the cost of certain projects and expenses, such as expanding parking facilities and providing grants for clean- or alternative-fuel facilities and equipment for transit buses, ferries or locomotives. It also extends a transportation benefits program for federal employees across the nation and establishes a pilot program for vanpool projects. **NO Passed 322-98**

> **468 6/26/08 H.R. 6377** Directing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to immediately curb the role of speculation in oil futures trading. **YES Passed* 322-98**

> **469 6/26/08 H.R. 6251** Requiring current holders of oil or natural gas exploration leases to develop or relinquish their existing leases before they could receive new ones. Leaseholders who do not comply could be subject to fines ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 a day, even if the delay in exploration is caused by government action or litigation. As a result, the bill would ultimately increase energy costs. **NO Failed* 223-195**

> **470 6/26/08 H. Res. 1098** Supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the American Veteran and encourage Americans to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of veterans. **YES Passed* 409-0**

> **471 7/8/08 H.R. 3981** Authorizing \$25 million annually from FY2009-2013 for the Preserve America Program which provides grants to support historic preservation, education and tourism. It also permanently authorizes \$50 million annu-

ally for the Save America's Treasures Program, which awards grants to projects designed to stop the destruction or deterioration of historic properties as well as historical collections of writings or art. **YES Passed* 360-23**

> **472 7/8/08 H.R. 1423** Authorizing the Interior secretary to lease a portion of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and allow the agency to create exhibits at a cost that does not exceed \$1.2 million. **YES Passed* 376-11**

> **473 7/8/08 H.R. 4199** Adding sites to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, including Hawthorn Hill and the Wright Company factory, and redesignating the area as the "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park." **YES Passed* 368-18**

> **476 7/9/08 H.R. 5811** Motion to recommit the bill to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to prevent

20,000 rental home vouchers for homeless veterans. It would authorize \$200 million in FY2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year for housing programs for veterans. **YES Passed* 412-9**

> **479 7/9/08 H.R. 6184** Authorizing the issuance of quarter dollars with designs of national parks or other national sites in the states, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States starting in 2010. **YES Passed* 419-0**

> **482 7/10/08 H.R. 1286** An amendment to require the Interior secretary to report to Congress on potential energy resources included in the trail. **YES Passed 424-0**

> **483 7/10/08 H.R. 1286** Motion to recommit the bill to the Natural Resources Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to require the land within the trail to be governed by state and local gun laws. **YES Failed 202-211**

> **484 7/10/08 H.R. 1286** Designating the 600-mile route from Rhode Island to Virginia

USDA Issues \$445,000 in Energy Efficiency Grants to 13 Ozarks Farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently selected 13 local poultry producers to receive more than \$445,000 in federal grants to promote renewable energy and efficiency systems. These grants will allow area businesses to develop, install, and utilize renewable energy systems likely to save them a total of more than 325,000 gallons of propane each year.

"Southwest Missouri farmers are among the most innovative small business owners in the country, always looking for new ways to reduce their costs and increase production," Congressman Roy Blunt said. "We saw during the annual agriculture tour that poultry producers are experimenting with burning low-quality hay, corn, wood and wood chips to reduce their soaring propane costs. These innovations are helping reduce their reliance on nonrenewable energy while at the same time having a positive impact on our community."

Carla Hurn of Verona said, "This is such a blessing. Using wood pellets in place of propane, I can save \$107,000 per year in heating costs for my eight poultry houses." Similarly,



The Youngblood poultry operation near Diamond is using a non-feed, hay-burning furnace to heat six houses. The Youngbloods hope to save thousands of dollars in heating costs with their new innovation which is finding interest from other growers.

Randy Hall of Monett expects to use 45,000 fewer gallons of propane when he switches to a biomass furnace. Larry Long of Monett hopes to realize a 36,000 gallon cut in his propane usage when he starts heating with wood chips. Murphy Biglow of Anderson will heat his six poultry houses with wood. "We have lots of wood on the ground from the big ice storm, so we'll have plenty of fuel," he said.

unauthorized removal, damage or destruction of classified records from the National Archives and restrict the viewing of classified materials by non-National Archives and Records Administration personnel. **YES Passed 419-1**

> **477 7/9/08 H.R. 5811** Directing the National Archives and Records Administration to create regulations on the capture, management and electronic preservation of electronic messages that would be electronically searchable. All federal agencies would be required to comply with the regulations within four years of the bill's enactment. Agencies would no longer be able to use a "print and file" system. The bill would require the National Archives and Records Administration to create standards for the management of presidential records, and require annual certification of whether the president's records management controls meets those standards. **NO Passed 286-137**

> **478 7/9/08 H.R. 3329** Providing at least

traveled by Revolutionary War Gen. George Washington and French Lt. Gen. Count de Rochambeau as a national historic trail. The bill allows the development, production, conveyance or transmission of energy along the trail. As amended, it would clarify that the bill would not limit access to hunting, fishing or shooting nor limit a state's right to regulate those activities. It also bars the use of eminent domain to acquire lands for the trail. **YES Passed 345-69**

> **485 7/10/08 H.R. 3121** Motion to instruct conferees to recede to a section of the Senate-passed bill that would require Federal Flood Insurance subsidies to be reduced more quickly and for more types of properties. It also would require premium subsidies to be phased out 90 days after enactment. **YES Passed 385-26**

> **486 7/14/08 H. Res. 1067** Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS Nautilus and commending the submarine's officers and crew. **YES Passed* 375-0**

Farm Bill continued from Page 10

per month. Ozarks Food Harvest is an affiliate of America's Second Harvest, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization.

"The Farm Bill also includes language that removes a 40 year-old law keeping state-inspected meats—beef, lamb, pork, goat and poultry—from being marketed across state lines," Blunt said. "I couldn't find a good reason—scientific or political—for this law. If we want to open markets for agriculture products, we ought to start at home."

The law change will allow 2,000 state-inspected meat processors—more than two dozen of them in Missouri—to start marketing their products nationwide after passing state meat inspections. This measure will promote the local livestock sector of agriculture without compromising food safety that consumers demand.

> 487 7/14/08 H. Res. 1080 Recognizing the service, sacrifice and patriotism of the 101st Airborne Division, also known as the Screaming Eagles. **YES Passed* 378-0**

> 488 7/14/08 H. Con. Res. 297 Expressing the sense of Congress honoring the 60th anniversary of President Truman's declaration on July 26, 1948, that there should be equality of treatment for members of the armed services. **YES Passed* 378-0**

> 489 7/15/08 H. Res. 1259 Congratulating the Hamilton College Continentals on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III women's lacrosse championship. **YES Passed* 423-0**

> 490 7/15/08 H. Res. 1323 Commending the Arizona State University softball team for its victory in the 2008 Women's College World Series. **YES Passed* 425-0**

> 491 7/15/08 H.R. 6331 Passage, over President Bush's July 15, 2008 veto, of the bill that would replace a 10.6 percent cut in payments to physicians treating Medicare patients, scheduled to take effect on July 1, by holding payments at current rates for 18 months and providing for a 1.1 percent increase in 2009 and then cutting payments thereafter. The bill also would provide an additional \$4 billion over five years and \$16.6 billion over 10 years for changes to Medicare beneficiary programs and would eliminate a higher co-payment rate for Medicare outpatient psychiatric services. It would be partially offset by requiring private "fee for service" plans to form networks with health care providers, thereby slowing the plans' rate of growth by eliminating private "fee for service" in many rural areas. **NO Passed 383-41**

> 492 7/15/08 H. Res. 1345 Motion to refer the Kucinich, D-Ohio, privileged resolution to the Judiciary Committee. The Kucinich resolution would bring articles of impeachment against President George W. Bush for "high crimes and misdemeanors." **NO Passed 238-180**

> 493 7/15/08 H.R. 5803 Establishing a new \$75 million program to provide grants to states and local governments to reimburse them for costs associated with making available back-up paper ballots in the November 2008 general election. The program would be duplicative of

existing efforts. **NO Failed* 248-170**

> 494 7/15/08 H. Res. 1090 Honoring former South Africa President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on his 90th birthday. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> 499 7/16/08 H.R. 5959 An amendment to express a sense of Congress that the defeat of Colombian paramilitary organizations is in the best interest of the United States and that it is critical that the United States continue to support the government of Colombia in protecting against terrorist groups. It also expresses that the July 2 release of hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia demonstrates the professionalism of the Colombian security forces and intelligence operatives, and that U.S. intelligence has played a key role in developing the capabilities of the Colombian government. **YES Passed 414-10**

> 500 7/16/08 H.R. 5959 An amendment to bar the use of funds to prohibit or discourage the use of the phrases "jihadist," "jihadi," "Islamofascism," "caliphate," "Islamist," or "Islamic terrorist" within the intelligence community or the federal government. **YES Passed 249-180**

> 501 7/16/08 H.R. 5959 An amendment to require the Director of National Intelligence to submit a National Intelligence Estimate on the production and sale of narcotics in support of international terrorism, including support to the Taliban and al Qaeda. **YES Passed 426-2**

> 502 7/16/08 H.R. 5959 Motion to recommend the bill to the permanent Select Committee on Intelligence with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to require the Director of National Intelligence to submit a National Intelligence Estimate assessment on national security and energy security issues related to rising energy costs, including an outlook for prices and supply of key forms of energy, the national security implications of energy costs and the risk of U.S. adversaries using energy sources as leverage against the United States. **YES Failed 200-225**

> 506 7/16/08 H.R. 415 Motion to recommend the bill to the Natural Resources Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to ensure the bill would not restrict development of energy infrastructure, easements and environmental mitigation related to energy, business or economic activities. **YES Failed 188-227**

> 507 7/16/08 H.R. 415 Designating a 40-mile segment of the Taunton River in Massachusetts as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It allows the Interior Department to acquire land only through purchase from a willing seller or through a land donation. The bill requires the Interior secretary to report on the energy resources available on the lands and waters included in the segment of the river. **NO Passed 242-175**

> 508 7/16/08 H. Con. Res. 295 Expressing congressional appreciation for the families of members of the U.S. armed forces. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> 511 7/17/08 H.R. 6515 Requiring the Interior Department to offer oil and gas lease sales on an annual basis instead of the current practice of every other year. It requires current holders of

oil or natural gas exploration leases to develop or relinquish their existing leases before they could receive new ones, but would not expedite environmental permitting, which is the most frequent cause of delays. The cumulative result of the provisions would be less domestic energy production. **NO Failed* 244-173**

> 512 7/22/08 H.R. 6493 Creating an Aviation Safety Whistleblower Investigation Office within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); creating rules for flight standard inspectors who leave the agency; barring maintenance inspectors from overseeing an airline for more than five continuous years. **YES Passed* 392-0**

> 513 7/22/08 H. Res. 1311 Expressing support of National GEAR UP Day to recognize the GEAR UP program, which provides college preparatory services to 640,000 students in more than 46 states. **YES Passed* 385-1**

> 514 7/22/08 H. Res. 1202 Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Guard Youth Challenge Day. **YES Passed* 388-0**

> 518 7/23/08 H.R. 6532 Appropriating \$8.02 billion to the Highway Trust Fund to be drawn out of money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. **YES Passed* 387-37**

> 519 7/23/08 H.R. 3221 Motion to concur in the Senate amendment with the House amendment that grants authority to the Treasury Department to extend new credit and buy stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It creates an independent regulator for the two mortgage giants and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. It overhauls the Federal Housing Administration and allows it to insure up to \$300 billion worth of new, refinanced loans for struggling mortgage borrowers. It includes a \$7,500 tax credit to some first-time homebuyers, higher loan limits for FHA-backed loans, a standard tax deduction for property taxes and revenue-raisers to offset part of the costs. It authorizes \$3.92 billion in grants to states and localities to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed properties, and increase the federal debt limit to \$10.6 trillion. **NO Passed 272-152**

> 520 7/23/08 H.R. 6545 Requiring the director of national intelligence to submit a national intelligence assessment to Congress on security and energy security issues related to energy costs. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> 521 7/23/08 H.R. 6545 Motion to table (kill) the Price, R-Ga., motion to reconsider the vote on the Ruppertsberger, D-Md., motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the national intelligence director to submit a national intelligence assessment to Congress on security and energy security issues related to energy costs. **NO Passed 242-179**

> 527 7/24/08 H.R. 6578 Requiring the Energy Department to release 70 million barrels of light, sweet crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in exchange for the same amount of heavier grade crude oil. **NO Failed* 268-157**

> 528 7/24/08 H.R. 3999 An amendment to bar the use of funds to employ workers in violation of a law that prohibits the hiring or continued employment of illegal immigrants. **YES Passed 416-1**

> 529 7/24/08 H.R. 3999 Motion to recommend the bill to the Transportation and Infra-

structure Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language that would require removal of structurally deficient federal bridges on federal highways once a replacement bridge has been constructed. **YES Failed 151-268**

> 530 7/24/08 H.R. 3999 Authorizing \$1 billion for FY2009 for the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Bridge Program. The bill requires annual inspections of "structurally deficient" bridges and improved uniformity in state bridge inspections and evaluations. It also requires a risk-based prioritization of bridges and an independent review of the FHWA's risk-determination process. The bill creates a National Tunnel Inspection Program; requires a Government Accountability Office study of FHWA's bridge rating system and one on bridge construction delays; and requires reports on the impact of bridge closings and a study on the cost benefits of using carbon fiber composite materials in bridge projects. **YES Passed 367-55**

> 531 7/24/08 H.R. 5501 Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that authorizes \$48 billion from FY2009-2013 for programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief used to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria overseas. The bill replaces the current requirement that one-third of all HIV prevention funding go to abstinence education with balanced funding for abstinence, fidelity and condom programs. It also authorizes \$2 billion for American Indian health, clean water and law enforcement programs. **NO Passed 303-115**

> 532 7/24/08 H. Res. 1368 Suspending a requirement for expedited floor consideration of legislation to reduce Medicare spending triggered by a provision in the 2003 Medicare law. The exemption would apply for the remainder of the 110th Congress. **NO Passed 231-184**

> 533 7/24/08 H. Res. 1296 Supporting the designation of September as National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations. **YES Passed* 404-0**

> 534 7/29/08 H.R. 2490 Requiring the Coast Guard to conduct a mobile biometric identification program of suspected individuals, including terrorists. **YES Passed* 394-3**

> 535 7/29/08 H.R. 6113 Requiring each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information. **YES Passed* 394-0**

> 536 7/29/08 H.R. 2192 Establishing an Office of the Ombudsman within the Veterans Health Administration. **YES Passed* 398-0**

> 538 7/30/08 H.R. 5892 Revising the disability benefits claims processing system for veterans. The Veterans Affairs Department would conduct a number of studies, including one on adjusting the schedule for rating of disabilities. **YES Passed* 429-0**

> 539 7/30/08 H. Res. 1370 Calling on the Chinese government to end human rights abuses, cease repression of its Tibetan and Uighur citizens and end support for the Burmese and Sudanese governments before the 2008 Beijing Olympics. **YES Passed* 419-1**

> 540 7/30/08 H.R. 6604 Directing foreign exchanges trading U.S. commodities to impose

limits on the number of futures contracts an investor can own, or positions. Investors trading on such overseas exchanges would have to reduce or liquidate positions if they exceed their limits or their activity threatens to distort prices. It would authorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to impose position limits on over-the-counter trading. **NO Failed* 276-151**

> **541 7/30/08 H.R. 6445** Barring the collection of co-payments from veterans for hospital and nursing home care if the veteran is considered catastrophically disabled. The measure also incorporates the text of four other veterans bills. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **543 7/30/08 H.R. 4040** Motion to suspend the rules and adopt the conference report on the bill that authorizes \$626 million for the Consumer Product Safety Commission in FY2010-2014. The bill sets lower thresholds for lead in toys and bans certain phthalate, or plastic softeners, in products for children. It requires an online database of product-related injuries and risks, bans the sale of all-terrain vehicles that do not meet certain standards and provides whistleblower protections to certain employees. It also provides states with increased consumer protection authority. **YES Passed* 424-1**

> **544 7/30/08 H.R. 4137** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that reauthorizes the Higher Education Act through FY2012. The bill creates over 45 new programs. The measure penalizes states by withholding some federal funds if the state's funding for institutions of higher education falls below the average amount allocated by the state over the last five academic years. It establishes a new loan forgiveness program, providing up to \$2,000 a year for five years for all sorts of individuals including government employees. **NO Passed 380-49**

> **546 7/31/08 H. Res. 1396** Motion to table (kill) the Boehner, R-Ohio, privileged resolution that censures Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., for violating clause 5 of Rule XXV of the House in the renting of three rent-stabilized Manhattan apartments and one rent-stabilized apartment used for a campaign office. **NO Passed 254-138**

> **551 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** An amendment directing the Labor Department to report to Congress within 90 days on the effect of the bill's provisions related to employers' ability to recruit and hire employees regardless of gender. Enactment of the provisions would be delayed pending the department's report. If the agency finds the provisions would likely significantly hinder an employer's ability to hire and recruit regardless of gender, they would not go into effect. **YES Failed 188-240**

> **552 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** An amendment delaying the bill's effective date by six months from enactment. The Labor Department would have to educate small businesses about requirements under the new law and assist them with compliance. **YES Passed 426-1**

> **553 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** An amendment clarifying that a plaintiff would be required to show intent - malice or reckless indifference - to recover punitive damages. **YES Passed 397-29**

> **554 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** An amendment clarifying that nothing in the bill would af-

fect the obligation of employers and employees to comply with applicable immigration laws.

YES Passed 410-16

> **555 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** Motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to add a finding stating that gas prices are high and Congress has not enacted measures to lower the price. The language also would cap attorney fees at \$1,000 per hour. **YES Failed 189-236**

> **556 7/31/08 H.R. 1338** Amending the Equal Pay Act to allow lawsuits against employers for gender discrimination even if the employee can't demonstrate intentional discrimination. The bill authorizes punitive damages and unlimited attorneys fees. **NO Passed 247-178**

> **557 7/31/08 H.R. 6633** Reauthorizing through FY2013 the E-Verify pilot employment eligibility verification program, an Internet-based program that allows employers to verify the employment eligibility of their hires. It also requires the Social Security Administration and Homeland Security Department to enter into an agreement each fiscal year to provide funding to the Social Security Administration for checking employee Social Security numbers submitted under the program. **YES Passed* 407-2**

> **558 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** An amendment to increase grants for construction of state extended care facilities by \$18 million, offset by a reduction of the same amount for the departmental administration general operating expenses account. **YES Failed 185-227**

> **559 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** An amendment barring the use of the funds in the bill for a project or program named for an individual currently serving as a House member, delegate, resident commissioner or senator. **YES Passed 329-86**

> **560 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** An amendment to eliminate 103 projects from the bill related to military construction. All the projects were included in the Defense Department long-term plan. **NO Failed 63-350**

> **561 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** An amendment barring the use of the funds in the bill for the enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires government contractors to pay employees the prevailing wage. **YES Failed 143-275**

> **562 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** Motion to table (kill) the Peterson, R-Pa., appeal of the ruling of order that the Lewis, R-Calif., motion to recommit constituted legislating on an appropriations bill. The motion would recommit the bill to the Appropriations Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language that would add the text of a bill (H.R. 6566) to provide for offshore drilling in areas where it is currently prohibited, tax breaks for individuals and businesses who buy fuel-efficient vehicles and extend tax credits for alternative sources of energy. **NO Passed 230-184**

> **563 8/1/08 H.R. 6599** Providing \$118.7 billion in FY2009 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, military construction and military housing. The bill provides \$93.7 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, including \$40.8 billion for veterans' health programs. It provides \$46 billion in mandatory spending for veterans' service-connected compensation benefits and

pensions. The bill provides \$11.7 billion for military construction, \$3.2 billion for military family housing and \$9.1 billion for the latest round of base closures. It appropriates \$219 million for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program. As amended, it would bar the use of the funds to enforce a provision of current law that bars the federal government from using alternative fuels that emit more greenhouse gases than conventional fuels. **YES Passed 409-4**

> **564 8/1/08 H. Res. 1008** Condemning the Iranian government for its state-sponsored persecution of Baha'is and would call on Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community. **YES Passed* 408-3**

> **565 8/1/08 H. Res. 1316** Recognizing the essential role played by landing ship tanks during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and other missions as well as honor the sailors who served on them. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **567 9/8/08 S. 2403** Naming a federal courthouse in Richmond, Va., after the late Robert R. Merhige, Jr. and Spottswood W. Robinson III. Merhige was a federal judge known for his 1970s desegregation rulings and Robinson represented some of the plaintiffs in the civil rights case *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. **YES Passed* 376-0**

> **568 9/8/08 S. 2837** Naming a federal courthouse in Brooklyn, N.Y., after the late Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States. **YES Passed* 375-1**

> **569 9/8/08 S. 2135** Making it a federal crime to knowingly recruit or enlist a child under age 15 into an army, militia or other military organization. Violators would be subject to fines or up to 20 years in prison, or both. If death of a person results, the bill allows for a sentence of life in prison. It sets a statute of limitations of 10 years for such offenses. **YES Passed* 371-0**

> **570 9/9/08 H. Con. Res. 344** Expressing the sense of Congress that there is a global food crisis and that children are affected disproportionately. It calls for the United States and other G-8 countries to work to alleviate the crisis. **YES Passed* 404-1**

> **571 9/9/08 H. Res. 937** Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that emergency communication services of the American Red Cross are vital to maintain communication between military members and their families during emergencies. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> **572 9/9/08 H. Res. 1069** Condemning the broadcasting of incitement to violence against Americans, Israelis and the West in media based in the Middle East. It also condemns Hamas for using children's television programming to incite hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism and calls on the president to designate Hamas-owned al-Aqsa TV as a global terrorist entity. **YES Passed* 409-1**

> **573 9/9/08 H. Res. 1307** Commending the Kingdom of Bhutan for participating in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, recognizing the achievements of the Bhutanese people, and commending the government for holding parliamentary elections and transitioning to a parliamentary democracy. **YES Passed* 395-15**

Firefighters continued from Page 11

responders did not have radios. Using eight mobile repeaters, 67 new mobile radios and 150 handheld radios, the grant will allow every member of the department to have their own radio."

The new radios are already yielding

results. In August, Southern Stone County firemen responded to four heart attack calls. All four victims survived. "The new communications equipment is putting trained professionals on the scene faster and creating a sharp cut in response times. Faster service will save lives," Chief Neubert said.

The Wheaton Fire Department, the fiscal agent for Barry County's twelve fire departments, received a \$158,355 grant that will put a pager into the hands of every volunteer firefighter working in Barry County. "This new notification system, coupled with the new 911 phone system that is now operational, will be a great asset to Barry County and the fire departments that serve it. The grant will pay for 350 pagers," said Wheaton Fire Chief Bob Lombard. "Firefighters will receive a page for each fire call with directions to the emergency and each department will have its own notification system."

> **574 9/9/08 H.R. 6168** Designating a post office in Saint Charles, Mo., as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building." **YES Passed* 403-0**

> **575 9/9/08 H.R. 6630** Barring the Transportation secretary from granting authority to motor carriers domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond U.S. municipalities and commercial zones on the U.S.-Mexican border unless authorized by Congress. It also would require the secretary to end a one-year cross border demonstration project that began September 2007. **YES Passed* 395-18**

> **578 9/10/08 H.R. 1527** Requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a three-year pilot program to permit veterans in rural areas to receive eligible health care at non-VA providers. Veterans who live more than 60 miles from a primary care VA facility or 120 miles from a facility providing acute hospital care would be eligible for the program. **YES Passed* 417-0**

> **579 9/10/08 S. 2617** Increasing the rate of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans. The rate would be linked to the cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **581 9/10/08 H.R. 3667** An amendment to



Wheaton Fire Chief Bob Lombard shows the new pagers.

Newtonia Bill continued from Page 10

2006, said, "We'll finally be able to move forward on finding the best way to safeguard these state, local and national treasures – preserving and protecting a key element of our history for future generations."

The Newtonia Battlefield Protection Association has led efforts to preserve the venue and purchased 11 acres and the two-story Ritchey Mansion, which served as a headquarters and a working hospital during the battles of 1862 and 1864.

require a study to analyze any potential impacts on the possession or use of a weapon, trap or net, including a concealed weapon.

YES Passed 418-0

> **582 9/10/08 H.R. 3667** Motion to table (kill) the Sali, R-Idaho, appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Grijalva point of order that the Sali motion to recommit the bill to the Natural Resources Committee was not germane. The Sali motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to add the text of a bill (H.R. 6566) to provide for offshore drilling in areas where it is currently prohibited, tax breaks for individuals and businesses who buy fuel-efficient vehicles and extend tax credits for alternative sources of energy.

NO Passed 228-187

> **583 9/10/08 H.R. 3667** Directing the Interior Department to do a study of portions of the Missisquoi River and a tributary, the Trout River, in Vermont as wild and scenic rivers. The portions are approximately a 25-mile segment of the upper Missisquoi from its headwaters in Lowell, Vt. to the Canadian border in North Troy, Vt.; a roughly 25-mile segment from the Canadian border in East Richford, Vt. to Enosburg Falls, Vt.; and about 20 miles of the Trout River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Missisquoi River in Franklin County, Vt.

NO Passed 299-118

> **584 9/10/08 H.R. 4081** Requiring sellers that mail or ship tobacco products to use a shipment method that would include verification that recipients are of legal age in their states or localities. It also prohibits consumer shipment of tobacco product packages that weigh more than 10 pounds.

YES Passed* 379-12

> **586 9/11/08 H. Res. 1420** Recognizing Sept. 11 as a day of commemoration, extending sympathies to the loved ones of those who lost their lives in the 2001 terrorist attacks, honoring the actions of first responders and armed forces, and expressing gratitude to the nations that have helped the United States combat terrorism.

YES Passed* 402-0

> **587 9/11/08 H.R. 6532** Motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would appropriate \$8.02 billion to the Highway Trust Fund, which would be drawn out of money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. The transfer would take effect upon enactment.

YES Passed* 376-29

> **589 9/15/08 H. Res. 1200** Honoring the dedication and work of military support groups in the United States in supporting members of the armed forces and their families.

YES Passed* 374-0

> **590 9/15/08 H. Con. Res. 390** Honoring the

28th Infantry Division for protecting the United States.

YES Passed* 374-0

> **591 9/15/08 H.R. 6889** Extending the authority of the Education secretary to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year.

YES Passed* 368-4

> **598 9/16/08 H.R. 6899** Motion to recommit the bill to the Natural Resources Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with a substitute amendment to repeal the existing 125-mile moratorium on oil and gas exploration and production in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and allow coastal states to opt-out of oil and gas production from 25 to 50 miles offshore within one year of enactment.

YES Failed 191-226

> **599 9/16/08 H.R. 6899** Giving states the option to allow oil and gas offshore drilling between 50 and 100 miles off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, except for waters in the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida coast. The federal government could permit drilling from 100 to 200 miles offshore, but drilling would be prohibited within 50 miles. It stipulates that the federal government would collect all royalties from new oil and gas leases permitted under the bill and would not permit revenue sharing with states. It would require utilities to obtain 15 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020. It also includes roughly \$19 billion in new tax incentives for renewable energy, new coal technologies and alternative-fuel vehicles and \$19 billion in tax increases.

NO Passed 236-189

> **600 9/17/08 H.R. 6842** Substitute amendment to repeal District of Columbia laws prohibiting firearm possession, including the possession of semiautomatic firearms. It repeals the District's requirements for firearm registration and the requirement that firearms be disassembled or secured with a trigger lock in the home, removes criminal penalties for possessing firearms in the home and allows the District's residents to purchase firearms in Maryland and Virginia.

YES Passed 260-160

> **601 9/17/08 H.R. 6842** Repealing District of Columbia laws prohibiting firearm possession, including the possession of semiautomatic firearms. It repeals the District's requirements for firearm registration and the requirement that firearms be disassembled or secured with a trigger lock in the home. It removes criminal penalties for possessing firearms in the home and allows the District's residents to purchase firearms in Maryland and Virginia.

YES Passed 266-152

> **602 9/17/08 H. Res. 1335** Commending the contributions of the U.S. armed forces and the efforts of the National Association of State Veterans Homes for the past 120 years.

YES Passed* 411-0

> **603 9/17/08 S. 2339** Designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Mich., as the "Lt. Col. Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

YES Passed* 412-0

> **604 9/17/08 H.R. 1594** Designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Hermitage, Pa., as the "Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

YES Passed* 410-0

> **607 9/18/08 H.R. 6604** Motion to recommit the bill to the Agriculture Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with language to bar the provisions from taking effect until the Commodity Futures Trad-

ing Commission determines that the bill's energy market regulatory actions will not result in any equity loss for individuals' pension funds.

YES Failed 196-221

> **608 9/18/08 H.R. 6604** Authorizing federal regulators to set limits on over-the-counter trading on energy futures. Foreign exchanges trading U.S. commodities would have to impose smaller limits on the number of futures contracts an investor can own.

NO Passed 283-133

> **609 9/18/08 H. Res. 1460** Motion to table (kill) the Boehner, R-Ohio, privileged resolution that would remove Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., from his chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee, and establish a subcommittee in the House Standards and Official Conduct Committee within 10 days of the resolution's adoption to investigate whether Rangel violated U.S. tax code in his reporting of rental income for a property he has owned in the Dominican Republic since 1988.

NO Passed 226-176

> **612 9/18/08 H.R. 3036** An amendment to allow funds issued under the measure's grant program to be used to address environmental justice issues in low-income communities and to develop policy approaches to environmental education.

YES Passed 383-23

> **613 9/18/08 H.R. 3036** Motion to recommit the bill to the Education and Labor Committee with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to require that priority be given to local education agencies before funds are awarded to other eligible applicants, and barring the use of funds in the bill for lobbyists or lobbying organizations that advocate against energy production, as well as organizations that do not address a full spectrum of environmental issues.

YES Failed 172-230

> **614 9/18/08 H.R. 3036** Establishing a competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations, institutes of higher education, and state and local governments to develop environmental education curricula. It also reauthorizes \$14 million for the Environmental Education and Training Program in FY2009 and makes changes to the program, requiring the EPA to consult with the Education Department when making program grants.

It requires the program to encourage traditionally unrepresented individuals to pursue degrees in environmental fields.

NO Passed 293-109

> **615 9/18/08 H.R. 6460** Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Legacy programs through FY2013. The measure authorizes \$750 million to remediate sediment contamination and restore aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes region and \$25 million for development of technologies for the programs.

YES Passed* 371-20

> **616 9/22/08 H.R. 6685** Establishing a grant program in the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide iron working skills training to adults in federally recognized Indian tribes and facilitating job placement for those who complete the program.

NO Passed* 302-72

> **617 9/22/08 H.R. 1907** Creating a new \$60 million a year Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program within the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. States would have to match funds to receive federal grants under the program and have a coastal population density of at least 85 people per square mile.

NO Passed* 313-59

> **618 9/22/08 H.R. 6853** Establishing an FBI

national mortgage fraud coordinator with regional task forces that include federal, state and local participation. The coordinator would provide training, collect data and recommend efforts to combat mortgage fraud.

YES Passed* 350-23

> **621 9/23/08 S. J. Res. 45** Granting congressional approval to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Compact, an agreement on the rights between the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, regarding use of the waters and maintenance of the watershed of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway and River.

YES Passed* 390-25

> **622 9/23/08 H.R. 5244** Motion to recommit the bill to the Financial Services Committee with instructions that it be reported back promptly with an amendment stipulating that no provisions of the bill would take effect until the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors conducted a study determining that the bill would not result in a reduction of the availability of credit to small businesses, veterans or minorities.

YES Failed 198-219

> **623 9/23/08 H.R. 5244** Imposing new mandates on credit card companies relating to interest charges and billing. The mandates would limit the ability to use risk-based pricing. The measure also requires companies to send statements at least 25 days before payment is due and give at least 45 days notice before increasing rates.

NO Passed 312-112

> **624 9/23/08 H.R. 6897** Requiring the Veterans Affairs Department to compensate Filipino veterans who fought for the United States in World War II between July 26, 1941 and July 1, 1946, including those who served in the Philippines' Commonwealth Armed Forces and other guerrilla units. Eligible persons who have become U.S. citizens would receive \$15,000, while non-citizens would receive \$9,000 for their service.

YES Passed* 392-23

> **631 9/24/08 S. 3001** Concurring in Senate amendments to the bill with a House amendment to authorize \$611 billion for defense programs in FY2009, including \$68 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Excluding the war funding, it authorizes \$154.3 billion for operations and maintenance; \$104 billion for procurement; \$128.7 billion for military personnel; \$25 billion for military construction, family housing and base closure; \$77.7 billion for research development, testing and evaluation; and \$25 billion for the Defense Health Program. It authorizes a 3.9 percent pay increase for military personnel. It also contains provisions to govern oversight of contracts, including one to set up a database of defense contractors found to have violated the law.

YES Passed* 392-39

> **632 9/24/08 H.R. 2638** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill with a House amendment consisting of an omnibus appropriations bill spreading a total of \$1.029 trillion, including \$40.6 billion in FY2009 funding for the Homeland Security Department, \$487.7 billion for Defense programs, \$118.9 billion for military construction and veterans programs, and \$22.9 billion for disaster relief. The amendment also appropriates funding through March 6, 2009, for programs covered by the nine unfunded FY2009 appropriations bills.

It also provides extra funding, including \$7.5 billion for loan to domestic auto-manufacturers and

\$2.5 billion above FY2008 levels for Pell grants.

NO Passed 370-58

> **633 9/24/08 H.R. 5265** Directing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to partner with leaders in the muscular dystrophy patient community to disseminate care options. It directs the Health and Human Services Department to update patient condition data. **YES Passed* 418-2**

> **634 9/24/08 H.R. 7005** Providing a one-year adjustment to prevent more than 20 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax (AMT) on 2008 income. It also increases the refundable credit amount for individuals with long-term unused credits. **YES Passed* 393-30**

> **635 9/24/08 H.R. 7006** Providing tax relief to people affected by any federally declared disaster after Jan. 1, 2007, and before Jan. 1, 2012. The bill increases the mileage rate deduction for charitable work and provides low-income housing tax credits to areas affected by federally declared disasters. **YES Passed* 419-4**

> **636 9/24/08 S. 2606** Authorizing \$292 million from FY2009-2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration. The measure would allow the agency to make contracts with certain nationally recognized organizations to provide training to fire service personnel and increase authorized amounts available for such training from 4 percent to 7.5 percent. The agency would upgrade the National Fire Incident Reporting system using a maximum of \$5 million over a three-year period. **YES Passed* 418-2**

> **638 9/25/08 H. Res. 1490** Waiving through Sept. 27, 2008, the two-thirds majority vote requirement for same-day consideration of a rule for a bill (H.R. 7060) to extend expiring tax provisions and provide tax incentives for investment in renewable energy and energy conservation. **NO Passed 222-198**

> **639 9/25/08 H.R. 758** Barring insurance companies from limiting hospital stays to fewer than 48 hours for a patient undergoing a mastectomy or breast surgery such as lumpectomy, and fewer than 24 hours for those undergoing lymph node dissection. The bill prohibits insurers from providing incentives to physicians for limiting a patient's stay or not referring the patient to secondary consultation after surgery. **YES Passed* 421-2**

> **641 9/25/08 H. Con. Res. 255** Expressing support for the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and the European countries that work to preserve sacred historical sites, and declaring that if the Lithuanian government does not stop construction and protect the Jewish cemetery in the Snipiskes area of Vilnius, Lithuania, it will jeopardize its relationship with the United States and the international community. **YES Passed* 414-1**

> **642 9/25/08 H.R. 1014** Requiring pharmaceutical companies that submit a new drug application to the Food and Drug Administration to include data on the drug's safety and effectiveness with respect to age, gender and "racial subgroup." It authorizes \$204 million for the Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation program for FY2009-2013. **YES Passed* 418-4**

> **643 9/25/08 H.R. 6950** Directing the Treasury Department to design and produce a congressional commemorative medal for the Health and

Human Services Department to award to organ donors or to a surviving family member. **YES Passed* 420-1**

> **644 9/25/08 H. Res. 1421** Honoring the service and sacrifice of the victims of the October 1983 terrorist bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **648 9/26/08 H.R. 7060** Motion to table (kill) the Camp, R-Mich., appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Neal point of order that the Camp motion to recommit the bill to the Ways and Means Committee was not germane. The Camp motion would recommit the bill with instructions that it be reported back forthwith with language to add the text of a bill (H.R. 6049), which would extend dozens of expired or expiring tax provisions, including the research tax credit, deductions for tuition and education expenses, and deductions for sales tax in states without income taxes. **NO Passed 220-198**

> **649 9/26/08 H.R. 7060** Extending expiring tax provisions through 2009, including the tax credit for research and development, rules for active financing income, state and local sales tax deductions, expenses for teachers and deductions for tuition expenses, as well as increase the child tax credit. The measure also provides tax incentives for carbon capture and sequestration demonstration projects, and investment in renewable energy. The bill also included \$60 billion in tax increases, primarily levied on domestic energy production. **NO Passed 257-166**

> **650 9/26/08 S. 1382** Directing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a system to collect data on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and direct the Health and Human Services Department to submit a report to Congress within 18 months of the measure's enactment on the data registries for the disease. **YES Passed* 415-2**

> **656 9/26/08 H.R. 4120** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill to clarify that it is a federal felony to reproduce or distribute child pornography, including transmission over the Internet, in any way that constitutes or affects interstate commerce. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **659 9/26/08 S. 1046** Raising the cap on base pay for certain senior level positions and certain scientific and professional positions in the federal government to be equal to the current pay for Senior Executive Service positions. The pay change would take effect the first pay period 180 days after the bill's enactment. **YES Passed* 419-0**

> **660 9/26/08 H.R. 7110** Appropriating \$60.8 billion in new government spending to extend unemployment benefits and provide additional FY2009 funds for food assistance programs, infrastructure projects, energy development, public housing, state Medicaid plans and other programs. The bill appropriates \$12.8 billion for highway infrastructure investment; \$2.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers general construction projects; \$7.5 billion for state and tribal assistance grants for drinking water and sewer projects; \$3 billion to modernize, renovate and repair schools as well as make them more energy efficient; \$3.6 billion for transit capital assistance grants to purchase buses and equipment needed to expand public transportation; and \$2.6 billion for food assistance. **NO Passed 264-158**

> **662 9/27/08 H.R. 7081** Granting congressio-

nal approval to the U.S.-India nuclear cooperation agreement. It requires that the president determine and certify to Congress that certain actions have occurred before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission could issue licenses for transfers of nuclear-related goods and services, including that India has provided the International Atomic Energy Agency with a credible plan to separate civilian and military nuclear facilities, materials and programs. **YES Passed* 298-117**

> **664 9/28/08 S. 3325** Stipulating that copyright registrations apply to civil action rather than criminal ones and establish an intellectual property enforcement coordinator to advise the president. The measure authorizes, from FY2009-2013, \$125 million for local law enforcement grants to combat intellectual property crimes, \$50 million for investigative and forensic resources for the FBI and the attorney general to investigate the crimes, and \$50 million for the FBI and \$50 million for the Justice Department to investigate intellectual property crimes involving computers. **YES Passed* 381-41**

> **665 9/28/08 H.R. 6460** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy programs from FY2004-2010. The bill would authorize \$350 million to remediate sediment contamination and restore aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes region and \$21 million for development of program technologies. **YES Passed* 411-9**

> **668 9/28/08 S. 2840** Authorizing such sums as necessary to establish an FBI liaison office within the Homeland Security Department to process naturalization applications for current and former members of the U.S. armed forces, their spouses and children. Applications would have to be processed within six months. The bill's provisions would sunset five years after enactment. **YES Passed* 416-0**

> **669 9/29/08 S. 906** Banning the export of elemental mercury beginning in 2013 and prohibiting federal agencies from selling or distributing mercury. The measure requires the Energy Department to provide permanent storage for domestic mercury stocks. **YES Passed* 393-5**

> **674 9/29/08 H.R. 3997** Concurring in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill, with an additional House amendment. The House amendment authorizes up to \$700 billion to be given in installments to the Treasury Department to establish a program to buy certain mortgage-backed securities and other assets relating to mortgages. It requires the department to insure the assets and set up systems for congressional oversight. It directs the Treasury to set limits on compensation for executives of companies whose troubled assets it purchases, and calls on the department to develop programs to reduce foreclosures and encourage lenders to modify mortgage terms. The department would have to establish mechanisms for valuing, pricing and selecting managers for the troubled assets. It prohibits the purchase of certain assets at a higher price than the seller paid for the asset. The measure allows the department to immediately use \$250 billion in authority to buy assets, with an additional \$100 billion if the president certifies such an expansion. The president would have to provide a written request for the remaining \$350 billion, which

could be subject to congressional disapproval.

YES Failed 205-228

> **675 9/29/08 H.R. 7175** Revising certain Small Business Administration lending programs, including the 7(a) loan program, in order to accelerate the flow of investment capital and encourage commercial lending from banks. **YES Passed* 374-6**

> **676 10/2/08 S. 3641** Reauthorizing five Justice Department grant programs through FY2013 that provide legal assistance and services to crime victims. The bill would authorize \$25 million for U.S. Attorney Office victim and witness assistance programs, and \$117.5 million for the Office for Victims of Crime. **YES Passed* 410-2**

> **678 10/2/08 H.R. 7221** Consolidating the Housing and Urban Development Department's homeless assistance competitive grant programs into a single program and authorize \$2.2 billion in FY2009 for grants for emergency shelter needs of the homeless. The bill also changes the definition of homelessness to include individuals and families who are within 14 days of losing their housing due to eviction, ejection or the end of a motel stay. **YES Passed* 355-61**

> **681 10/3/08 H.R. 1424** Concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill to authorize up to \$700 billion to be given in installments to the Treasury Department to establish a program to buy certain mortgage-backed securities and other assets relating to mortgages. The agency would be required to insure the assets and set up systems for congressional oversight. It directs the Treasury to set limits on compensation for executives of companies whose troubled assets it purchases, and calls on the department to develop programs to reduce foreclosures and encourage lenders to modify mortgage terms. It prohibits the purchase of certain assets at a higher price than the seller paid. The bill allows the department to immediately use \$250 billion in authority to buy assets, with an additional \$100 billion if the president certifies such an expansion. The president would have to provide a written request for the remaining \$350 billion, which could be subject to congressional disapproval. It temporarily expands Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation protection to \$250,000 per bank account. The bill extends dozens of expired or expiring tax provisions, including several energy tax provisions. It provides a one-year adjustment to exempt more than 20 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax on 2008 income and require private insurance plans to put mental health benefits on par with other medical benefits. **YES Passed 263-171**

> **682 10/3/08 S. 3197** Exempting National Guard members who served more than 90 days on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001 from the current means test requirement before filing for bankruptcy. Members would have to file for bankruptcy within 540 days after release from active duty to qualify. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> **683 10/3/08 H.R. 6867** Providing an additional seven weeks of unemployment benefits for workers who have exhausted their current compensation by March 31, 2009. The bill also would extend benefits for an additional 13 weeks, or half the duration of regular unemployment compensation, for workers in states with an unemployment rate of 6 percent or higher. **YES Passed* 368-28**

Deadly Tornadoes, Floods and Ice Bring Disaster Declarations

President Bush issued six disaster declarations over twelve months for several counties in Southwest Missouri. Federal agencies came to the aid of individuals and local governments to put families and businesses back on their feet as a series of lethal storms hit the region.

Tornadoes swept through Barry, Jasper and Newton Counties in Missouri, taking 16 lives, plus another six people were killed in Oklahoma. One storm cut a path of destruction from near Seneca to Purdy. In January, tornadoes damaged schools, homes and businesses in Greene County.

Flooding prompted three presidential disaster declarations from January into April. Heavy rains pushed the White River to record levels and

forced people to flee their homes. Table Rock Dam reached a new milestone as the lake hit a record high in April, forcing the release of water through all ten gates.

Spring floods also impacted Neosho, Joplin, Springfield, and other communities. The James River in Galena caused widespread property damage due to torrential rains. 2008 will be among the wettest years on record in Southwest Missouri.

In December, ice returned to the western counties, knocking out power in Jasper,

Newton and numerous other counties, prompting another federal disaster declaration.

- **Disaster Declaration 1736**, December 6, 2007—ice storm
- **Disaster Declaration 1742**, January 7-10, 2008—flooding & tornadoes
- **Disaster Declaration 1748**, February 10-14, 2008—flooding
- **Disaster Declaration 1749**, March 17, 2008—flooding
- **Disaster Declaration 1760**, May 10, 2008—tornadoes
- **Disaster Declaration 1809**, September 11-24, 2008—storms



Table Rock Dam releases record amount of flood waters.



Governor Matt Blunt, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and Federal Emergency Management Director David Paulison (front row, left to right) viewed the devastation of the May 10 tornadoes along a 40 mile path. Dozens of homes were destroyed or heavily damaged.

FISA Reforms Are Making America Safer

A long-needed modernization to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) negotiated by Congressman Roy Blunt will make our nation safer and more secure, while at the same time safeguarding and strengthening the freedoms of every American.

For years, our intelligence community has been forced to track 21st century terrorist organizations under a set of rules designed to counter a 20th-century threat. Unfortunately, we now face a sinuous, resilient and constantly adapting terrorist enemy - a threat that legislation originally written in 1978 couldn't adequately address without this much-needed modernization.

Blunt said, "This update is every bit a victory

for our national security as it is a clear blow to foreign terrorists abroad."

Key points of the FISA reforms are:

- Gives intelligence community the modern tools it needs to monitor terrorist communications overseas.
- Retains strong protections for American citizens and adds new layers of protection for Americans living, traveling, or serving abroad.
- Ensures that telecommunications carriers that assisted the country in good faith after 9/11 are not subject to frivolous lawsuits

Blunt and Senator Kit Bond were key players in shaping the bipartisan FISA deal. "I am pleased that after months of work, we were able to strike the delicate balance of granting our intelligence officials the resources and freedoms they need while strengthening the freedoms of Americans," Blunt said.



Blunt Secures Grant for Tornado Safe Room in Seneca

Congressman Roy Blunt helped secure a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to construct a community tornado safe room in the Seneca R-7 School District. The 13,557 square-foot structure will provide protection for more than 2,700 people in the storm prone area and is designed to withstand 250 mile per hour winds.

"This year Southwest Missouri witnessed some of the worst nature has to offer," Blunt said. "The Seneca area bore the brunt of a massive line of tornadoes and paid too great a price. I hope we never experience another disaster of that magnitude and this shelter is never put to use, but if needed it will be well worth the investment."

Seneca Superintendent of Schools Rick Cook said, "We're excited about getting this facility for our community. We applied a year ago and just last spring, in the space of three weeks, we had one tornado that missed our school by just two



miles and another that came within five miles."

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is intended to reduce the loss of life and property, lessen the impact to local communities due to natural disasters, and enable recovery after a disaster. FEMA will pay 75 percent of the project costs and the Seneca R-7 School District will contribute the remaining 25 percent.

Social Security Recipients to See Benefit Increase

In 2009, Southwest Missouri residents on Social Security will receive about \$60 more each month thanks to this year's 5.8 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA). This is the largest increase in a quarter century and is more than double the 2.3 percent COLA in 2008.

The Social Security Act sets a formula that compares the increase in the average Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers from the third quarter of 2007 to the third quarter of 2008 to estimate each year's COLA.

The Medicare Part B monthly premium will remain at \$96.40 in 2009, the first year since 2000 that there was no increase in previous year's premium. Medicare Part B covers a portion of the cost of physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services and durable medical equipment.

Benefits & Taxes	2008	2009
Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January	\$1,090	\$1,153
Maximum Social Security Benefit at Full Retirement Age	\$2,185	\$2,323
Average Benefits to Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	\$1,773	\$1,876
Average Benefits to Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$2,268	\$2,399
Average Benefits to All Disabled Workers	\$1,006	\$1,064
Allowable Early Retirement Earnings Without Penalty	\$13,560	\$14,160
Maximum Taxable Earnings for Social Security	\$102,000	\$106,800

Medicare Beneficiaries Should Review, Compare Their Current Plan

Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their plans through December 31. Everyone with Medicare benefits should review their current health or prescription drug plan to make sure it meets their needs. Those without prescription drug coverage can also enroll in a drug plan during this annual enrollment period, but all changes must be completed by December 31 in order to take effect in 2009.

Last year, two-thirds of all Medicare beneficiaries reviewed their plan options, one-third compared more than one plan, and 3.1 million Medicare beneficiaries - about 12% - changed their plan. It is always a good idea to review your plan options because the cost and coverage provided by a Medicare plan can change, as can a person's health status.

Medicare beneficiaries in Missouri may experience significant changes - and maybe reduced coverage - if they stay with their current plan. There are nearly 50 drug benefit plans available in Southwest Missouri starting at \$14.50 a month. A dozen plans offer coverage during the gap for some, many or all generics drugs with premium costs running from

\$54.50 up to \$106.80 a month. Of the 23 medical health plans available to



seniors, nearly half have a drug component offering gap coverage. While reduced coverage sounds like a bad thing, for many healthy seniors a less expensive and less inclusive plan makes the most economic sense.

Seniors will find helpful advice on choosing the best plan for them online at Medicare.gov or by contacting the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging in Springfield (417-862-0762) or the VantAge Point Area Office on Aging in Joplin (417-627-0600). Special enrollment and counseling opportunities are available at the Neosho public library on December 2, the Pineville public library on December 3 and at the Center for Excellence in Webb City on December 4. The enrollment clinics run from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.