



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, our Hope and our Salvation, You go ahead of us and prepare a place for us.

Here on Capitol Hill, there are countless workers, from carpenters to staff writers, pages, clerks, Parliamentarians, electricians, and others, who work behind the scenes.

They prepare this institution for the work of the elected Members of Congress. You alone know the faith and dedication of these silent workers.

Hidden from the public eye, they can never be taken for granted. Each, in his or her own way, serves the Nation and, through their faithfulness, gives You glory.

Bless them, Lord, their work and their families. Hear their prayers and reward them with Your love and compassion, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 13, 2009, at 9:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 338.

That the Senate passed S. 39.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 37.

Appointments:

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

THE DEMOCRAT BUDGET: TAXING, SPENDING, AND BORROWING TOO MUCH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

Last week we talked about the massive increase in government spending President Obama is planning, the largest since World War II.

This week we will tell you how they plan to pay for all this new government spending—with the largest tax increase in American history.

The Democrats' budget will raise taxes by \$1.4 trillion on American families and businesses over the next 10

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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years. President Obama promised a tax cut for most Americans, but he raises energy taxes on 100 percent of Americans. The Democrats' budget will put a new tax on charitable giving that could cost American charities as much as \$16 billion a year. This will harm numerous organizations at a time when many of these groups are now struggling with the economic downturn.

This is the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. We need to stop this spending, taxing, and borrowing.

CONGRATULATING THE ARKANSAS EDUCATION TELEVISION NETWORK

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arkansas Educational Television Network.

This important resource for Arkansans was recently recognized for its commitment to education by the Corporation For Public Broadcasting, awarding AETN with a My Source Community Impact Award for Education for its Spring Break Family Day that was designed to encourage children to learn and be physically active through PBS characters, educational games, crafts, and contests.

I am proud to support this fine organization and its mission. AETN offers lifelong learning opportunities to our community and provides programming and services that enrich the lives of Arkansans. For its innovative efforts and committed response to the diverse educational needs of our community, it is clear AETN is deserving of this honor.

With the help of organizations like this, our community is building a brighter future for our children. I am glad to see that this station, which plays such an important role in our State, has been recognized on the national level. I commend the employees for their good work and wish them continued success for the 2009 Spring Break Family Day.

WE SHOULD PRAISE, NOT INSULT, LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Wall Street Journal recently reported that Speaker PELOSI called work site arrests and deportation of illegal workers "un-American."

That's quite a powerful word: "un-American." And it's quite a spectacle to have the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives call the actions of our law enforcement men and women "un-American."

We should praise them, not insult them, for enforcing our immigration laws.

Twelve million Americans are out of work. Seven million illegal workers

hold jobs that should go to citizens and legal immigrant workers.

Let's let the American people decide what is "un-American." We should not criticize law enforcement personnel. Instead, we should be grateful for the job they do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 987) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 987

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

SECTION 1. JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the consideration of H.R. 987, a bill to designate the United States postal facility located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office.

Introduced by Representative JASON ALTMIRE on February 11, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by a voice vote, H.R. 987 enjoys the support of the entire Pennsylvania House delegation.

As recently noted in the Ellwood City Ledger, John Scott Challis, Jr., "came into this world fighting." Only 2 days after his birth on December 16, 1989, John was helicoptered from The Medical Center in Beaver County to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he spent 16 days in hospital care and received lifesaving surgery.

As his beloved family and friends in Beaver County, and as many of us across the Nation well know, John never stopped fighting throughout his young life, even after being diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma, an adult form of liver cancer, at the age of 16. John's response to his initial diagnosis was indicative of his eternal determination and resolve, as well as a reflection of his own personal motto of "courage and believe equals life."

In April of 2008, John learned that his cancer had spread and that, most likely, he had only a few months to live. Nevertheless, John never ceased to live his life to the fullest and do what he loved most, which was spending time with his family and friends and playing and following the game of baseball.

On April 14, 2008, John first received national attention when he was able to pinch-hit for his beloved Freedom High School baseball team in a game against Aliquippa High. John cracked the first-pitch fastball into the outfield for an RBI single, and upon making it to first base proudly exclaimed to everyone, "I did it, I did it."

The following month, John graduated with his senior class. And in June of last year, John was able to take a family vacation with his devoted parents, Scott and Gina, and his younger sister, Lexie. He also visited the Pittsburgh Pirates Clubhouse and reminded the players to cherish the game of baseball and, of course, to cherish life.

Regrettably, John lost his battle with cancer in August of 2008. However, his memory and inspirational message will never be forgotten. In John's honor, the John Challis Courage For Life Foundation was established in 2008. The organization is dedicated to providing sports opportunities to student athletes with life-threatening illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that we can further serve to honor John's life through the passage of this legislation before us. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 987.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of designating the facility of the United States Postal Service at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, the John Scott Challis, Jr., Post Office.

And I particularly agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts and share his belief that courage plus believe equals life. This simple but profound equation is more than an inspirational quote. It's a testament to the character and the life of its creator, John Challis. Born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, John's life was too short, but not without meaning.

Mr. Speaker, often we name post offices after individuals who have lived a long and significant life, sometimes former Members of Congress, Presidents and the like. Today we are naming after someone whose life was cut off altogether too soon. In fact, after only 18 years, it is unusual that we would name a post office after somebody, but John went that extra mile to inspire America, reaching national prominence because, in fact, he would not quit, defying the odds by standing on a baseball field when most would be too weak to get out of bed and making the decision that he was going to live his every dream as best he could.

John did that, and his life will be an inspiration for as long as that plaque shall be at the post office. Today we honor that.

Mr. Speaker, I have been up here for many, many postal namings, and once in a while I get comments from back home saying "why do you spend so much time naming post offices?" And I guess the short answer is, Mr. Speaker, because we can.

But also, the longer answer is because we have so many examples of people like John Challis who, in fact, exemplify all that is good in America. All that gives us hope for the future, all that, in fact, allows us every day to know that through these troubled times, these economic problems, the recession that's before America today, that there are people who get up every morning, no matter how hard it is, and they do the best they can with the time that God gives them and with the power that they have.

John was, in every sense, a survivor, and he is survived by his parents and a younger sister who live on in his memory and who, in fact, will, for the time that this post office is in their town, realize that inspirations are important to America, particularly in difficult times.

So I join with the majority today asking that this unusual naming of a post office be passed because John's life was so special to America, and because, at a time like this, inspiration is important to all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, before closing, I would like to mention that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) who is the chief sponsor, the lead sponsor of the bill under consideration, has informed me that he is en route. He has informed us that he regrets not being able to be here for this afternoon's discussion but has asked that his support for the bill and the Challis family be known.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to join myself, Representative ALTMIRE and the gentleman from California in supporting H.R. 987.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to rename the Freedom Post Office honor of John Scott Challis, Jr.

John Challis inspired all of us with his determination to live every single day to the fullest. On June 23, 2006, John was diagnosed with liver cancer. He was only 16 and had just completed sophomore year at Freedom High School.

John and his family had a lot of questions after the cancer diagnosis: questions for the doctors about the disease, his treatment, and how it would impact his life. But, in these most difficult of circumstances, John found answers.

In a Pittsburgh Post Gazette article from May 2008, John's father, Scott Challis, recalls this time: "He's always been one who had to try and find an answer for everything. He wants to figure things out." The article continues, "Through his own thoughts and through his deep Catholic beliefs, John believes he has 'figured it out.' When asked where he gained his wisdom, he answered, 'Through cancer.'"

Despite his illness, John made the most of every day he had. Although he was too ill to play sports, Freedom baseball coach Steve Wetzel invited John to join the team and became one of John's closest friends.

In battling cancer, John had come up with a message: "Courage Plus Believe Equals Life." It was a message that along with his name, he inscribed on the inside of his baseball cap. His teammates followed suit.

Then came the moment John had been waiting for, his opportunity to play. Coach Wetzel asked John to pinch-hit in a game against Aliquippa. John wasted no time. On the first pitch, John hit a single to right field that scored a run.

After the game, John's story and message garnered national attention. He was featured on ESPN, invited to speak at a Pirates game, and watched the Penguins in their Stanley Cup playoff run.

Unfortunately, John lost this battle to cancer on August 19, 2008. But he left us with an important legacy. In his last few months, John was quoted as saying, "Life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths."

John was an inspiration to me, to his local community, and to the lives he touched. He will always be remembered.

However, even after his death, his inspiration and work continue. Last summer, John helped to start a foundation, the Courage for Life Foundation, to help other student athletes with life-threatening illnesses be involved in sporting events.

I have a few articles about John's life and his impact on those he touched. I ask unanimous consent to enter them into the RECORD.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairman TOWNS, for the opportunity to honor John Challis.

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 4, 2008]

TEEN IS RUNNING OUT OF INNINGS, BUT THE GAME STILL ISN'T OVER

(By Mike White)

The 18-year-old kid dying of cancer gets his wish, a chance to swing a bat maybe one last time in a real baseball game.

He hasn't played in a few years, but he's called on to pinch-hit. His eyes light up at the first pitch and he puts all of his 5-foot-5, 93-pound frame into one mighty swing, making contact and sending a line drive into right field for a single—if he can reach first base. The cancer he's been battling for almost two years has spread to his pelvis, making running nearly impossible.

The kid worries about falling as he hustles down the first-base line. When he gets to the base, he lets out with a yell. "I did it! I did it!"

Safe at first with a hit and an RBI, the kid is hugged by a crying first-base coach. The opposing pitcher takes off his glove, starts applauding and his teammates follow suit. The kid's teammates run onto the field to celebrate.

It sounds like the climax to a heart-tugger movie. But there was no producer or film crew at the game between Freedom and Aliquippa high schools two weeks ago. The scene was as real as the tumors in John Challis' liver and lungs.

John is a kid with cancer, a senior at Freedom in Beaver County who was told a few weeks ago by doctors that cancer was winning and it was close to the end. The disease that started in his liver was now taking over his lungs.

"They said it could be only two months," he said, fighting back tears.

He paused before his seemingly never-ending optimism came through again.

"I told my mom I still think I can get two more years."

But his story isn't about dying. It's about inspiring.

His story, words, actions, beliefs and courage have become known around Freedom and surrounding areas in Beaver County, bringing people together from other communities and other schools.

Three weeks ago, Freedom baseball coach Steve Wetzel organized "Walk For A Champion" on Freedom High's school grounds. The purpose of the walk-a-thon was to raise money for one of John's wishes—a last vacation with his mom, dad and 14-year-old sister, Alexis.

More than 500 people took part, including baseball teams from eight Beaver County high schools and members of Center High School's football team. John also used to play football at Freedom.

Mr. Wetzel, who calls the teen his hero, hoped to raise \$6,000. That total was easily surpassed "and people are still calling with donations," he said.

The family has booked a cruise for June.

THE CHALLIS EFFECT

A Beaver County church had planned a fundraiser, but John and his family asked the church instead to conduct the event and give the money to a fifth-grade boy in Beaver County who has a brain tumor.

"His family can use it more than we can," John said. "That's just common sense. Someone does something good for you, then you help someone else."

Actions and statements like those are what has inspired so many others. All of Aliquippa's baseball players wear John's jersey number "11" on their hats. At the walk-

athon, Aliquippa star athlete Jonathan Baldwin, a Pitt football recruit, presented him with a ball signed by Pitt players.

After the walk, John addressed the crowd. "He spoke from his heart," Mr. Wetzel, the coach, said. "He said, 'I've got two options. I know I'm going to die, so I can either sit at home and feel sorry, or I could spread my message to everybody to live life to the fullest and help those in need.' After hearing that, I don't know if there were many people not crying."

Last Thursday, Beaver pitcher Manny Cutlip tossed a three-hitter against Freedom as John watched in street clothes. After the game, every Beaver player came up to him and shook his hand. Some hugged him and some said they were praying for him. Manny Cutlip asked Mr. Wetzel if he could go to lunch some time with John. It happened the next day.

"I don't know what to say. I just wanted to get to know him better and see if I could learn anything from him to help me in my life," said the young pitcher, an imposing 6-foot-3, 225-pound standout athlete who will play football at IUP.

At lunch, he gave John a new football with a handwritten personal message on it. Part of the message read, "You have touched my heart and I will always look up to you as my role model."

Talk to John and you'll laugh at his sense of humor when he says things such as, "You can't let girls know that you know how to text message because they won't leave you alone."

But listen to his mature views on life and his philosophies . . . and you might cry.

"I used to be afraid, but I'm not afraid of dying now, if that's what you want to know," he said. "Because life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths."

FIGURING IT OUT

It's been almost two years since John found out about his cancer. He knows the date like a birthday. June 23, 2006.

He discovered only recently that doctors didn't expect him to last through that first summer. "To me, that's already an accomplishment," he said.

In the first few months after the cancer discovery, John's father, Scott, would get up in the middle of the night, peek into his son's bedroom and see him wide awake, staring at the ceiling.

"He would just be thinking," the elder Challis said. "He's always been one who had to try and find an answer for everything. He wants to figure things out."

Through his own thoughts and through his deep Catholic beliefs, John believes he has "figured it out." He answers questions with maturity, courage and dignity, traits that have become his trademarks.

John requested that his mother, Regina, not be interviewed for this story because it will be too hard for her. He talks to his father about what to do after he dies.

"I sit up with him at night until 1 or 2 in the morning," Scott Challis said. "He'll tell me, 'Dad, when I'm gone, you have to do this or that. You have to watch your weight.' He's worried about my weight. He tells me I have to take care of mom."

"When the doctors told him a few weeks ago about how the cancer was winning, he had a lot of questions about what it was going to be like and about being comfortable. Later on, he broke down with me and you know what he did? He apologized. He was upset because he felt like he was letting everyone down who had been praying for him."

Scott Challis has found talking about his son makes the situation easier to deal with.

But many people like to talk about John. Shawn Lehooky is a senior and one of Freedom's top athletes. For every football and baseball game, he wears a red wrist band with John's No. 11 on it.

"It seems like everyone in this community knows who he is now and he really has brought so many people together," Shawn said. "He's always on my mind. To see him and what he's going through, I don't know if I could act like that. He said some pretty strong words at that walk-a-thon that you don't hear 17- or 18-year-olds say every day."

John fought back tears a few times during last week's interview.

"Sometimes I cry, but people cry for all different kinds of reasons," he said. "Sometimes I just want to know why, but I think I figured that out. God wanted me to get sick because he knew I was strong enough to handle it. I'm spreading His word and my message. By doing that, I'm doing what God put me here to do."

"It took me about a half year to figure all that out. Now, when I'm able to truly believe it, it makes it easier on me. And when you know other people support what you're thinking, it makes it easier."

When asked where he gained his wisdom, he answered, "Through cancer."

"They say it takes a special person to realize this kind of stuff," he said. "I don't know if I'm special, but it wasn't hard for me. It's just my mind-set. A situation is what you make of it. Not what it makes of you."

He regularly wears his Freedom baseball hat. Under the bill of the cap is his name, plus this line: "COURAGE + BELIEVE = LIFE."

"I guess I can see why people see me as an inspiration," he said. "But why do people think it's so hard to see things the way I do? All I'm doing is making the best of a situation."

John then raises his voice.

"Why can't people just see the best in things? It gets you so much further in life. It's always negative this and negative that. That's all you see and hear."

John tries to keep complaining to a minimum, but he acknowledges his moments of crying.

"If I'm mad at anything in this, it's that I'm not going to be able to have a son, I'm not going to be able to get married and have my own house," he said, fighting back tears again. "Those are the things I'm mad about. But not dying."

THE ROLE OF SPORTS

John loves sports. He is an avid hunter—"got three buck and two doe in the last year," he said.

He played baseball through Pony League and always loved football, despite his small stature. As a sophomore, he started on Freedom's junior varsity team as a slotback and cornerback.

"I was 108 pounds. I had to be the smallest player in the WPIAL," he said with a laugh.

The cancer forced him to stop playing football as a junior.

"But I will never forget," his father said, "when he first got sick he told me, 'Dad, I have to dress for a football game one more time.'"

He got his wish in the final game of his senior season, against Hickory. Coaches let him kick off once. He was supposed to kick and immediately run off the field to avoid danger. Instead, he stayed on the field and got a little excited when the kick returner started heading his way before being tackled.

Later in the game, the coaches put him in for two plays at receiver. Mr. Wetzel and others who saw the game proudly tell how, on one play, John tried to block a defender, fell down, but got up and pushed another defender.

Mr. Wetzel said seeing John play in that last football game, doesn't compare to seeing his hit against Aliquippa in that April 14 baseball game. John vividly remembers the details leading up to the hit. When he walked into the batter's box, he saw Aliquippa's catcher wearing a protective mask with the initials "J.C." and the number "11."

"I just looked at him and said, 'Nice mask.'"

He then noticed an Aliquippa coach saying something to the pitcher.

"I'm thinking, 'If they're going to walk me or throw easy to me, I don't want it handed to me,'" he said. "But sure enough, he threw me a fastball. That's what made it so good. . . . There were only about 20 people there watching, but everyone was cheering."

Mr. Wetzel said: "We made it to the state [PIAA] playoffs two years ago and I thought that was the best feeling. I got to play in WPIAL championships at Blackhawk as a player. But that day, that hit, that moment . . . That was the best feeling I've ever had in sports."

Six days later, Freedom played a game at PNC Park. John attended the game, but had an IV line in his arm for a treatment he was getting. He took out the IV line and asked Mr. Wetzel if he could pinch-hit again.

"Unbelievable. He told me the doctor said he could take it out for up to seven hours," Mr. Wetzel said. "He told me he just wanted to be a normal kid one more time."

So Mr. Wetzel let him pinch-hit. This time he struck out.

They have a unique coach-player relationship. Mr. Wetzel invited John to be part of the team a year ago and John calls the coach one of his best friends. They talk every day, at least on a cell phone, and go to lunch together once a week.

"The kid has changed my life," Mr. Wetzel said. "I cry for him just about every day. I'm 32 and I'm getting married in September. You know what he told me the other day? He told me to save him a seat in the front row of the church, because even if he's not there, he'll be there in spirit."

"He just keeps doing things and saying things that are just unbelievable. I know our team will never forget this season because of Johnny."

The two want to start a foundation in John's name for young cancer patients.

"Even if [the foundation] is something that can help only one kid or one family, to see people in a different way like I have, it will be worth it," John said. "Maybe it will help younger people who haven't gotten to see the finer things in life that I got to see."

John plans to attend Freedom's prom May 9 and plans to graduate in June. As John ended this interview, he said he wondered how his story will come out in the newspaper.

"When you write this, don't overthink things," he said. "I've learned that. There are a lot of unanswered questions in this world and the reason they're unanswered is because if you think about them too much, you're always going to come up with different answers. So don't confuse yourself and think about this too much."

CHALLIS FOUNDATION AIMS TO HELP OTHER SICK KIDS

(By Elizabeth Merrill)

The idea came over lobster bites and potato soup. It was a good day for John Challis, because he cleaned his plate and didn't become violently ill. Challis has defied grim cancer prognoses for two years, because, he says, he has so much to look forward to.

"God still has a mission for John," says Steve Wetzel, his baseball coach at Freedom (Pa.) High School. "I truly believe that. John Challis isn't going anywhere. He still has work to do on earth."

Later this month, Challis and Wetzel will officially start the John Challis Courage for Life Foundation to assist seriously ill children. The foundation will arrange sports trips for sick children to meet their favorite athletes. Eventually, Challis wants to set up a message board for kids to converse with each other about treatments and their struggles with being sick.

Challis has hobnobbed with the A-list of professional sports lately, mingling with everyone from Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to former Penguins hockey great Mario Lemieux to Cleveland Indians skipper Eric Wedge. They know about his inspirational story, and how he got his first varsity baseball hit in April despite being sapped by cancer treatments and weighing just 93 pounds.

Challis says life has been a mix of good and bad days, and he hit a very rough patch a few weeks ago. Wracked with pain from a radiation treatment, he developed severe swelling around his waist and legs. One night, he called Wetzel and said, "Coach, this has been the worst couple of days. I feel terrible. But I'm not going to stop fighting."

A week later, Challis graduated from high school. He hopes to go to college this fall, and is putting together a scrapbook of his summer with Wetzel. They drove to Cleveland for an Indians game recently, and Challis napped on the way home. Normally, Wetzel says,

Challis gets sick during a long, 13-hour day. But on this day, he stayed strong.

"Before the game, he said, 'It's amazing to see two teams I haven't seen before. That's going to be great, Coach. But the best thing is that it's just going to be me and you.'

"We saved our ticket stubs," Wetzel says. "That meant the world to me. That makes my life all worthwhile."

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 26, 2008]

AILING FREEDOM YOUNGSTER URGES PIRATES: 'HAVE FUN'

(By Dejan Kovacevic)

John Challis shakes hands last night with one of his baseball heroes, Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter.

John Challis, the Freedom youngster who has gained national attention for his battle with cancer, wrote a message on the eraser board of the Pirates' clubhouse yesterday afternoon.

"Have fun," it said. "The reason why we play ball is fun."

He signed his name underneath.

Challis, 18, also delivered a brief speech in the closed clubhouse to all players and staff, after which everyone in the room stood and applauded. From there, he spent extra time with first baseman Adam LaRoche to "talk about hunting and stuff," then sat in manager John Russell's office—his chair, actually—during Russell's afternoon news conference.

Asked to compare his battle to those faced daily by Major League Baseball players, Challis laughed and replied: "Baseball's not that complicated. You swing the bat, and you hit the ball. You don't worry about your stats. You just play the game."

Of his fate, he said: "God thinks I'm strong enough to handle it. He's just using me to spread His message."

Before Challis took his seats for the game, he also met with "the player I really want to meet" when he spoke with New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter during batting practice.

"If we can all show the courage and faith that John has, or even half of it, we'd all be better off," Russell said. "The unselfishness that's a part of his life should be a lesson to all of us."

Challis announced the creation of his Courage For Life Foundation to benefit high

school students with terminal illnesses. The Web site is www.courageforlifefoundation.com.

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Aug. 20, 2008]

OBITUARY: JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS: TEEN DELIVERED MESSAGE OF HOPE WITH CANCER FIGHT (By Mike White)

Over the past few months, John Challis watched a Penguins playoff game with Mario Lemieux, was featured on ESPN television, addressed the Pirates before a game and spent an afternoon with Alex Rodriguez at the New York Yankee's penthouse in Manhattan.

Although he rubbed elbows with the rich and famous, John likely will be remembered for the many people he touched—and for his inspiring actions and words.

John's two-year battle with liver and lung cancer ended yesterday afternoon, when he died at his home in Freedom, Beaver County. He was 18.

On a warm June afternoon, John did one of his final interviews. Lying on a couch in his living room, he spoke about his young life. He struggled to keep his eyes open, but talked about how, all of a sudden in the past few months, he had become something of a national celebrity.

Not long ago, John was simply a teenager battling a terminal illness. Then a base hit in a Freedom High School baseball game led to a May story in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which led to national attention, on television and radio and in other newspapers.

The attention is what John wanted. He had decided that through his fight with cancer, he could spread a message and help others.

"Everybody is scared. It's not normal to not be scared," John said of his plight. "But I'm not scared as much now. I have letters and other things from people, telling me how I've helped so many people in numerous ways. That makes me feel good."

In the corner of the family living room were two boxes of letters and cards from well-wishers and people who wrote to let him know they were inspired by his story. His family also has two binders filled with hundreds of e-mails from people who said John had impacted their lives.

Near the couch in the Challis home, a folded American flag sat on a chair. A Navy pilot flew the flag over Iraq with John's name on it and sent it to the family.

"I just want to say thanks to the people for keeping me going," John said. "All them little cards and stuff I got, keeps me going day by day. To know I'm going downhill a little bit, it doesn't bother me because I've helped so many people. Since I've helped so many people, this is easier to handle."

Courage + believe = life.

Life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths.

What teenager comes up with such sayings? John Challis did, and they became his personal trademarks. A baseball glove company sent John a black glove with "Courage + believe = life" embossed in the leather along with John's name.

"We would get things almost every day from people all over the country," said Scott Challis, John's father.

When John attended a Yankees game in late June, he had a news conference, surrounded by more than 20 reporters and photographers.

"People would sometimes call, too, just wanting to talk to him," his father said. "Some wanted to come meet him. It was amazing. I guess he touched so many people."

John was never more than an average athlete, at best. Because of the cancer, he couldn't play sports as a junior or senior at Freedom, except for a few plays in the final

football game of Freedom's 2007 season. Then in April came "the hit." John hadn't played baseball in a few years but he wanted to be on Freedom's team. He wanted a chance to hit one time, and Freedom coach Steve Wetzel granted the wish, pinch-hitting John in a game against Aliquippa.

In a storybook moment, John lined a run-scoring single to right field on the first pitch. Although he had trouble running, John made it to first base, yelling "I did it. I did it."

In May, John and Mr. Wetzel were guests on Dan Patrick's national radio show. ESPN sportscaster Scott Van Pelt devoted a segment of his national radio show to John's story.

How did a teenager with a heavy Pittsburgh accent from a small Western Pennsylvania town become a national star? How did he tug at so many people's emotions from so far away?

"There is just so much these days with the Internet, and Web sites, and blogs, but this was a story about a kid who was just so real that it grabs you," Mr. Van Pelt said. "Then, you had sports involved in it."

"I know Pittsburgh is probably all concerned about what the Steelers are going to be like this fall and how maybe the Penguins could've done things differently in the Stanley Cup, but this kid's story was just so different. It's a tremendous story. Actually, it's a bad story because it has a horrible ending."

"The story that [the Post-Gazette] did started the fire for this kid. If maybe I threw another log on to help get it going more, then great, because it deserved to be a bonfire."

John lived long enough to reach some personal goals. He graduated with his senior class. One of his last requests was to take a cruise with his father, his mother, Gina, and sister, Lexie, and they did that in June.

The Pirates brought him to a game later in June, gave him a uniform and let him address the team in the clubhouse. He told the players not to worry so much about their statistics and have fun. John told the Pirates to cherish the game—and life.

Mr. Wetzel recalled John's words: "You never know what life might bring you. You might have a few sniffles and think it's not a big thing. Then you go to the doctor the next day and they tell you that you have a 10-pound tumor in your stomach."

"Some of the Pirates got emotional," Mr. Wetzel said.

First baseman Adam LaRoche stayed in touch with John after his visit.

"It makes you realize how short life is and how unfair it can be," Mr. LaRoche said yesterday from the clubhouse in St. Louis, before the Pirates played the Cardinals. "I think what's cool is that, even with what he had, he chose to make the best of it and touch a lot of lives that he wouldn't have if this hadn't happened to him. He got the bad end of the deal, but he touched a lot of people. For sure, he touched the 25 people in here."

John also spent some time with the Tampa Bay Rays when the team was in town to play the Pirates.

"Their manager, Joe Maddon, called and said he saw the story on John on ESPN and he was just in his hotel room in tears," Mr. Wetzel said. "He said he just wanted to meet John. Coach Maddon has really become touched by John and his message."

Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Maddon now talk a few times a week. Mr. Wetzel said Mr. Maddon now puts "C + B = L" on every lineup card that he hands to umpires before games.

John's favorite moment in the past few months was the trip to New York for a Yankees game.

"Just because it was with my dad," John said. "It was a good time because we both got to experience it, and it felt like something not just for me, but something he enjoyed as well."

The afternoon at Mr. Rodriguez's penthouse was memorable.

"No Madonna," John said with a laugh.

John was never shy about expressing his feelings on a subject and was always known to ask questions. His father laughs at a couple questions John asked as Mr. Rodriguez was showing them around his home.

"Now John had no idea about these Madonna and A-Rod rumors [about an affair], and John goes, 'So, where's your wife?' I couldn't believe it. But A-Rod just said she was in Florida at their other home with their kids.

"Then John asked him if his wife worked. John wasn't trying to be smart. He was just curious. He told John that she didn't work, but that she had a psychology degree."

John faced his death with courage, dignity, a never-quit attitude and an awareness that was hard to fathom.

John's mother told of a nurse who started coming to the family home in June. "The first time she was here, John said, 'I know why you're here. You're here to make me comfortable in my last weeks. But it could be more than a few weeks, right?'"

"The kid was just unbelievable," Mr. Wetzel said. "His attitude and messages I think changed how some people looked at their lives. He changed how I went about life.

"I feel like a piece of my heart is gone now. The thing I'll miss most is his smile. He had a smile that could light up a room."

John said his Catholic faith and belief in God got stronger through his illness.

One of the things that made John happy in recent months was the start of a foundation that will raise money to help other sick teenagers enjoy a sports experience. The foundation was the idea of John and Mr. Wetzel.

"If I can help someone else going through this, then that would make me feel good," John said.

The foundation has a Web site—www.courageforlifefoundation.org—where donations can be made.

When asked a few weeks ago how he would like to be remembered, John said, "I could see people having some beers and hopefully remembering how I always tried my best, no matter what I was doing. That's my message—just for people to always do their best, no matter what they're doing or how stupid it might seem. And no matter what, there will always be a reward, no matter how small it is."

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his younger sister, Lexie.

Visitation will be tomorrow and Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Noll Funeral Home, 333 Third St., Beaver. A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday in SS. Peter & Paul Church, Beaver. Burial will follow at Beaver Cemetery.

The family asks memorial contributions be made to John Challis Courage For Life Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Monaca, PA 15061.

Also, there will be a golf outing to benefit John's foundation Monday at Chartiers Country Club. For more information, go to www.courageforlifefoundation.org.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1217) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1217

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present for consideration H.R. 1217, which designates the United States postal facility located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building.

Introduced by Representative W. TODD AKIN on February 26, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by a voice vote, H.R. 1217 enjoys the support, the unanimous support of the entire Missouri House delegation.

A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter Joseph Navarro bravely served with the United States Army's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

On December 13, 2005, Specialist Navarro and three fellow members of his unit were killed in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee while the soldiers were conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Navarro, a member of the United States Air Force Junior ROTC Program, graduated from Lafayette High School in 2003. He subsequently decided to forego his acceptance at Truman State University in order to join the United States Army.

As noted by his father, Jose, a retired chief petty officer for the United States Navy, Specialist Navarro was a strong-willed young man and a dedicated soldier who cared for the soldiers that he worked with and would do anything for his friends. Mr. Navarro also recounts that his son wanted to try and make a difference, and that being a soldier was what making a difference is in this time of our lives.

Specialist Navarro's dedication to his unit and his country was evidenced in July of 2005 when he returned home to Wildwood to attend the funeral of his younger brother, Daniel, who had been killed in a car accident. Specialist Navarro's mother, Rowena, begged her son not to return to Iraq in the summer. As Mrs. Navarro recalls her son telling her, "Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair. They'd do the same thing for me."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Peter J. Navarro's life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who have served and continue to serve our Nation at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1217 and dedicate the Manchester Road Post Office in Ballwin, Missouri, after this outstanding American soldier.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building. As you may know, in the previous Congress, we had voted to name this post office and, unfortunately, the term ended before we were able to pass this.

But the failure of the Senate to act should not diminish what happened in the summer of 2005 when Specialist Peter J. Navarro returned home from duty in Iraq to join his family at their home in Wildwood, Missouri, not for a joyful reunion, but to bury his younger brother, who had died in a car accident.

After Daniel's funeral, Peter's mother, distraught over the loss of her middle son, begged him not to return to Iraq. This young man's response to his grieving mother is nothing short of heroic. He had to go back. He said,

“Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody’s taking my place, and that’s not fair.”

□ 1615

This selfless devotion to his comrades and his country exemplifies the character of this tremendous young man.

Forgoing his acceptance to Truman State University, Specialist Navarro enlisted in the Army right after his graduation from Lafayette High School in 2003.

This young man believed in the mission, men, and country he served. Tragically, on December 13, 2005, just 1 month before he was scheduled to end his deployment, Specialist Navarro lost his life while on patrol in Iraq.

Specialist Navarro has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for his service. Specialist Navarro’s father, a veteran of the Navy, remembers his strong-willed son with admiration: “He died because he was trying to make a difference, and being a soldier was what was making a difference in this time of life.”

Like many young men and women in uniform today serving our country, Specialist Navarro in fact has made the decision to go into harm’s way to help another people far away—people he never met, people he knows nothing about, and people who he only knows he’s going because our country is there and because we are trying to make a difference.

I join with the majority today and with Congressman AKIN, who could not be here, for passage of his bill, in saying this is the right name in this town for the right individual who gave so completely to the American people, and I urge support.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1217, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Peter J. Navarro by designating the post office in Ballwin, Missouri, as the “Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building.” A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter J. Navarro was part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. On December 13, 2005 Specialist Navarro was one of four soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, Peter declined his acceptance at Truman State University so he could join the Army right after graduation.

When Peter returned home for his younger brother’s funeral, he was faced with the undeniable risks of serving his country. However, he returned to Iraq telling friends and family, “They need me there.”

Peter was a dedicated soldier, willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to protect his county and the men and women who reside there. As Peter’s father, Jose Navarro said, “He cared for the soldiers he worked with. He would do anything for his friends. And he told me he believed in what the mission was.”

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand

here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Peter’s commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family’s sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom’s cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Specialist Peter Navarro. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Peter.

Vote “yes” on H.R. 1217.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, I’d like to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for authoring the measure at hand. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1217.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1284) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1284

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

SECTION 1. MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 1284, a bill to designate the United States Postal Facility located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office Building.”

Introduced by my friend, Representative GENE TAYLOR, on March 3, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by voice vote, H.R. 1284 enjoys the support of the entire Mississippi House delegation.

Born in Neely, Mississippi, on November 20, 1927, Major Ed W. Freeman proudly served his country in the United States Army as a fixed and rotary wing aircraft pilot. On July 16, 2001, President George W. Bush presented Major Freeman with the Medal of Honor—the United States military’s highest commendation—in recognition of his brave actions during the Vietnam War.

Major Freeman began his distinguished military career at the age of 17, with 2 years of service in the United States Navy during World War II. He subsequently joined the United States Army, serving in Germany for 4 years before being deployed to Korea.

Notably, Major Freeman received his well-familiar nickname of “Too Tall” after being told that he was too tall to serve as an Army pilot. However, he quickly dispelled this notion by becoming one of the Army’s finest helicopter pilots.

Major Freeman’s bravery, dedication, and flying skills were never more evident than on November 14, 1965, during the battle of Ia Drang, at Landing Zone X-Ray, in Vietnam. As noted in his Medal of Honor citation, Major Freeman “distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity” as a member of Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

Specifically, as a flight leader and second-in-command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, then-Captain Freeman supported a heavily engaged American battalion at the Landing Zone in the Ia Drang Valley by “flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire, time after time, delivering critically needed ammunitions, water, and medical supplies to the besieged battalion.”

Additionally, Major Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions which resulted in the lifesaving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers. Major Freeman’s Medal of Honor citation goes on to note that his “selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary

perseverance, and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers.”

Major Freeman’s heroic acts in the Ia Drang Valley were subsequently immortalized in the Mel Gibson film *We Were Soldiers*.

While he retired from the military in 1967 and moved to Idaho with his beloved wife, Barbara, and sons, Mike and Doug, Major Freeman did not give up flying—as he went to work for the Department of the Interior’s Office of Aircraft Services. Upon his official retirement in 1991, Major Freeman had logged more than 25,000 hours of flying time.

Regrettably, Major Freeman passed away in August of last year at the age of 80.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor Major Freeman and his service to our country through the passage of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1284, and dedicating the McLain Post Office after this distinguished veteran.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1284, to designate the facility of the United States postal service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office.”

Major Freeman perhaps balances the three initiatives here today—a young soldier; an inspirational young man who died far too young of cancer; and, thirdly, a man who lived a full and complete life but who gave and gave and gave.

Major Freeman was born on November 20, 1927, in Mississippi. Before graduating from high school, as many of his generation, often called America’s finest generation, young Freeman enlisted in the Navy, and served 2 years before returning home to Mississippi, graduating from high school, and deciding to return to the military; this time, to the Army.

During the Korean War, Ed Freeman rose to the rank of master sergeant in an Army engineer unit, and did his battles in many places, including the battle immortalized as Pork Chop Hill, and was then awarded a Battlefield Commission.

As was earlier mentioned, Major Freeman was too tall to be initially allowed to be a pilot. At 6’4”, he was certainly a big target for the infantry, I might say, too. But with his perseverance, he eventually attended flight school until the regulation changed in 1955. But he kept that nickname, “Too Tall” Freeman. He carried it through the rest of his military career.

After winning his wings, Major Freeman began to fly fixed-wing aircraft and later switched to helicopters. In 1965, he was sent to Vietnam and served in Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, of the famous 1st Cavalry Division.

On November 14, 1965, Major Freeman’s helicopters carried a battalion into battle in the Ia Drang Valley, which became the first major confrontation between large U.S. forces and North Vietnamese regulars. For that, he received a number of commendations for his willingness to fly into the face of this heavy combat while dealing with casualties, going in and out and running low on supplies and fuel.

Major Freeman volunteered to fly into the battle area, risking his own life, delivering critically needed ammunition, water, and medical supplies to a battalion on the ground.

In all, Major Freeman carried out 14 separate rescue missions. For these actions, Major Freeman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 16, 2001, by President George W. Bush. A few months later, Major Freeman visited the White House again for the premier of *We Were Soldiers*, a 2002 feature film that depicted his role in the battle that day.

We will miss “Too Tall.” We will miss his generation.

Mr. Freeman died in Boise, Idaho, on August 20, 2008, from complications of Parkinson’s disease, and is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara Freeman, and his sons, Mike and Doug.

Mr. Speaker, naming a post office after a man who gave and gave and gave to his country the way Major Freeman did is little enough to do. Today, recognizing his life and contribution, too, is little enough to do for one of the last of America’s finest generations.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to thank the gentlemen from Massachusetts and California for their very timely consideration of this. I want to thank all the members of the Mississippi House delegation for cosponsoring it.

Gentlemen, there really isn’t anything that remains to be said. I think you all did a phenomenal job of honoring Ed Freeman’s life. The only thing I would ask is that his Medal of Honor citation be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you for the timely consideration.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION, CAPTAIN ED W. FREEMAN, UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Captain Ed W. Freeman, United States Army, distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity on 14 November 1965 while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As a flight leader and second in command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, he supported a heavily engaged American infantry battalion at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The unit

was almost out of ammunition after taking some of the heaviest casualties of the war, fighting off a relentless attack from a highly motivated, heavily armed enemy force. When the infantry commander closed the helicopter landing zone due to intense direct enemy fire, Captain Freeman risked his own life by flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire time after time, delivering critically needed ammunition, water and medical supplies to the besieged battalion. His flights had a direct impact on the battle’s outcome by providing the engaged units with timely supplies of ammunition critical to their survival, without which they would almost surely have gone down, with much greater loss of life. After medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area due to intense enemy fire, Captain Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions, providing life-saving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers—some of whom would not have survived had he not acted. All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking elements. Captain Freeman’s selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers. Captain Freeman’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would urge the passage of H.R. 1284, recognizing a Medal of Honor winner, a great American, one who has lived a long life and contributed a great deal to our country. Again, I urge support for H.R. 1284.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I simply want to thank Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi and, again, I want to urge all Members to support H.R. 1284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 987, H.R. 1217, and H.R. 1284, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

**JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST
OFFICE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie Burton (IN) Dent
Ackerman Butterfield Diaz-Balart, L.
Aderholt Buyer Diaz-Balart, M.
Adler (NJ) Calvert Dicks
Akin Camp Dingell
Alexander Campbell Doggett
Altmire Cantor Donnelly (IN)
Andrews Capito Driehaus
Arcuri Capps Duncan
Austria Capuano Edwards (MD)
Baca Cardoza Edwards (TX)
Bachmann Carnahan Ehlers
Bachus Carney Ellison
Baird Carson (IN) Ellsworth
Baldwin Carter Engel
Barrett (SC) Cassidy Eshoo
Barrow Castle Etheridge
Bartlett Castor (FL) Fallin
Barton (TX) Chaffetz Farr
Bean Chandler Fattah
Becerra Childers Filner
Berkley Clarke Fleming
Berman Clay Forbes
Berry Cleaver Fortenberry
Biggert Clyburn Foster
Billray Coble Foxx
Billirakis Coffman (CO) Frank (MA)
Bishop (GA) Cohen Franks (AZ)
Bishop (NY) Cole Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT) Conaway Fudge
Blackburn Connolly (VA) Garrett (NJ)
Blumenauer Cooper Gerlach
Blunt Costa Giffords
Bocchieri Costello Gonzalez
Boehner Courtney Goodlatte
Bonner Crenshaw Gordon (TN)
Bono Mack Crowley Granger
Boozman Cuellar Graves
Boswell Culberson Grayson
Boyd Cummings Green, Al
Brady (PA) Dahlkemper Green, Gene
Brady (TX) Davis (AL) Griffith
Braley (IA) Davis (CA) Guthrie
Bright Davis (IL) Hall (TX)
Broun (GA) Davis (KY) Halvorson
Brown (SC) Davis (TN) Hare
Brown-Waite, Deal (GA) Harman
Ginny DeFazio Harper
Buchanan DeGette Hastings (FL)
Burgess DeLauro Hastings (WA)

Heinrich Heller
Hensarling Herger
Herseht Sandlin Higgins
Hill Himes
Hinojosa Hirono
Hodes Hoekstra
Holden Holt
Honda Hoyer
Hunter Inglis
Inslee Israel
Issa Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B. Johnson, Sam
Jones Kagen
Kanjorski Kaptur
Kildee Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy Kind
King (IA) King (NY)
Kingston Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell Klein (FL)
Kline (MN) Kosmas
Kratovil Kucinich
Lamborn Lance
Langevin Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT) Latham
LaTourette Latta
Lee (CA) Lee (NY)
Levin Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA) Linder
Lipinski LoBiondo
Loeb sack Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe Lowey
Lujan Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch Mack
Maffei Maloney
Manzullo Marchant
Markey (CO) Markey (MA)
Marshall Massa
Matheson Boren
Boucher Hinchey
Boustany Johnson (IL)
Brown, Corrine Jordan (OH)
Cao Kennedy
Kirk Lucas
Luetkemeyer McCaul
Miller, Gary Moran (VA)
Myrick Olson
Pascrell Pence
Putnam Matsui
McCarthy (CA) Ruppertsberger
McCarthy (NY) Rush
McClintock Ryan (OH)
McCollum Ryan (WI)
McCotter Salazar
McDermott Sanchez, Loretta
McGovern Sarbanes
McHenry Scalise
McHugh Schakowsky
McIntyre Schauer
McKeon Schiff
McMahon Schmidt
McMorris Schock
Rodgers Schrader
McNerney Schwartz
Meek (FL) Scott (GA)
Meeks (NY) Scott (VA)
Melancon Sensenbrenner
Mica Serrano
Michaud Sessions
Miller (FL) Sestak
Miller (MI) Shadegg
Miller (NC) Sherman
Miller, George Shuler
Minnick Shuster
Mitchell Simpson
Mollohan Sires
Moore (KS) Skelton
Moore (WI) Slaughter
Moran (KS) Smith (NE)
Murphy (CT) Smith (NJ)
Murphy, Patrick Smith (TX)
Murphy, Tim Snyder
Murtha Souder
Nadler (NY) Space
Napolitano Spratt
Neal (MA) Stearns
Neugebauer Stupak
Nunes Sullivan
Nyeb Sutton
Oberstar Tanner
Obey Tauscher
Oliver Taylor
Ortiz Teague
Pallone Terry
Pastor (AZ) Thompson (CA)
Paul Thompson (MS)
Paulsen Thornberry
Payne Tiahrt
Perlmutter Tiberi
Perrilli Tierney
Peters Titus
Peterson Tonko
Petri Towns
Pingree (ME) Tsongas
Pitts Upton
Platts Van Hollen
Poe (TX) Velázquez
Polis (CO) Visclosky
Pomeroy Walden
Posey Wasserman
Price (GA) Schultz
Price (NC) Waters
Rahall Watson
Rangel Watt
Rehberg Waxman
Reichert Weiner
Reyes Westmoreland
Richardson Wexler
Rodriguez Whitfield
Roe (TN) Wilson (OH)
Rogers (AL) Wilson (SC)
Rogers (MI) Wittman
Rooney Wolf
Ros-Lehtinen Woolsey
Ross Wu
Rothman (NJ) Yarmuth
Roybal-Allard Young (AK)
Royce Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—47

Hall (NY) Radanovich
Hinchey Rogers (KY)
Johnson (IL) Rohrabacher
Jordan (OH) Roskam
Kennedy Sánchez, Linda
Kirk T.
Lucas Shea-Porter
Luetkemeyer Shimkus
McCaul Smith (WA)
Miller, Gary Speier
Moran (VA) Stark
Myrick Thompson (PA)
Olson Turner
Pascrell Walz
Pence Wamp
Putnam Welch

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie Carney Forbes
Ackerman Carson (IN) Fortenberry
Aderholt Carter Poster
Adler (NJ) Cassidy Foxx
Akin Castle Frank (MA)
Alexander Castor (FL) Franks (AZ)
Altmire Chaffetz Frelinghuysen
Andrews Chandler Fudge
Arcuri Childers Garrett (NJ)
Austria Clarke Gerlach
Baca Clay Giffords
Bachmann Cleaver Gonzalez
Bachus Clyburn Goodlatte
Baird Coble Gordon (TN)
Baldwin Coffman (CO) Granger
Barrett (SC) Cohen Graves
Barrow Cole Grayson
Bartlett Conaway Green, Al
Barton (TX) Connolly (VA) Green, Gene
Bean Conyers Griffith
Becerra Cooper Guthrie
Berkley Costa Hall (TX)
Berman Costello Halvorson
Berry Courtney Hare
Biggert Crenshaw Harman
Billray Crowley Harper
Billirakis Cuellar Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA) Culberson Hastings (WA)
Bishop (NY) Cummings Heinrich
Bishop (UT) Blackburn Heller
Blackburn Dahlkemper Hensarling
Blumenauer Blumenauer Davis (AL)
Blunt Davis (GA) Herger
Bocchieri Davis (IL) Herseth Sandlin
Boehner Boehner Davis (KY)
Bonner Davis (TN) Hill
Bono Mack Deal (GA) Himes
Boozman DeFazio DeFazio
Boswell DeGette DeLauro
Boyd DeLauro Hodes
Brady (PA) Dent Hoekstra
Brady (TX) Diaz-Balart, L. Holden
Braley (IA) Diaz-Balart, M. Holt
Bright Dicks Honda
Broun (GA) Dingell Hoyer
Brown (SC) Brown (SC) Doggett
Brown-Waite, Brown-Waite, Donnelly (IN)
Ginny Driehaus
Buchanan Duncan Israel
Burgess Edwards (MD) Issa
Burton (IN) Edwards (TX) Jackson (IL)
Butterfield Ehlers Jackson-Lee
Buyer Ellison (TX)
Calvert Ellsworth Jenkins
Camp Engel Johnson (GA)
Campbell Eshoo Johnson, E. B.
Cantor Etheridge Johnson, Sam
Capito Fallin Jones
Capps Farr Kagen
Capuano Fattah Kaptur
Cardoza Filner Kildee
Carnahan Fleming

Kilpatrick (MI) Miller (NC) Schock
 Kilroy Miller, George Schrader
 Kind Minnick Schwartz
 King (IA) Mitchell Scott (GA)
 King (NY) Mollohan Scott (VA)
 Kingston Moore (KS) Sensenbrenner
 Kirkpatrick (AZ) Moore (WI) Serrano
 Kissell Moran (KS) Sessions
 Klein (FL) Murphy (CT) Sestak
 Kline (MN) Murphy, Patrick Shadegg
 Kosmas Murphy, Tim Sherman
 Kratovil Murtha Shimkus
 Kucinich Nadler (NY) Shuler
 Lamborn Napolitano Shuster
 Lance Neal (MA) Simpson
 Langevin Neugebauer Sires
 Larsen (WA) Nunes Skelton
 Larson (CT) Nye Slaughter
 Latham Oberstar Smith (NE)
 LaTourette Obey Smith (NJ)
 Latta Olver Smith (TX)
 Lee (CA) Ortiz Snyder
 Lee (NY) Pallone Souder
 Levin Pastor (AZ) Space
 Lewis (CA) Paul Spratt
 Lewis (GA) Paulsen Stearns
 Linder Payne Stupak
 Lipinski Perlmutter Sullivan
 LoBiondo Perriello Sutton
 Loeb sack Peters Tanner
 Lofgren, Zoe Peterson Tauscher
 Lowey Petri Taylor
 Luján Pingree (ME) Teague
 Lummis Pitts Terry
 Lungren, Daniel Platts Thompson (CA)
 E. Poe (TX) Thompson (MS)
 Lynch Polis (CO) Thornberry
 Mack Pomeroy Tiahrt
 Maffei Posey Tiberi
 Maloney Price (GA) Tierney
 Manzullo Price (NC) Titus
 Markey (CO) Rahall Tonko
 Markey (MA) Rangel Towns
 Marshall Rehberg Tsongas
 Massa Reichert Upton
 Matheson Reyes Van Hollen
 Matsui Richardson Velázquez
 McCarthy (CA) Rodriguez Visclosky
 McCarthy (NY) Roe (TN) Walden
 McClintock Rogers (AL) Wasserman
 McCollum Rogers (MI) Schultz
 McCotter Rooney Waters
 McDermott Ros-Lehtinen Watson
 McGovern Ross Watt
 McHenry Rothman (NJ) Waxman
 McHugh Roybal-Allard Weiner
 McIntyre Royce Westmoreland
 McKeon Ruppertsberger Wexler
 McMahan Rush Whitfield
 McMorris Ryan (OH) Wilson (OH)
 Rodgers Ryan (WI) Wilson (SC)
 McNeerney Salazar Wittman
 Meek (FL) Sanchez, Loretta Wolf
 Meeks (NY) Sarbanes Woolsey
 Melancon Scalise Wu
 Mica Schakowsky Yarmuth
 Michaud Schauer Young (AK)
 Miller (FL) Schiff Young (FL)
 Miller (MI) Schmidt

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284, on which the yeas and nays were recorded.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

YEAS—384

Bilirakis
 Boren
 Boucher
 Boustany
 Brown, Corrine
 Cao
 Delahunt
 Doyle
 Dreier
 Emerson
 Flake
 Gallegly
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez

Abercrombie
 Ackerman
 Aderholt
 Adler (NJ)
 Akin
 Alexander
 Altmire
 Andrews
 Arcuri
 Austria
 Baca
 Bachmann
 Rogers (MI)
 Bachus
 Baird
 Baldwin
 Barrett (SC)
 Barrow
 Bartlett
 Barton (TX)
 Bean
 Becerra
 Berkley
 Berman
 Berry
 Biggert
 Bilbray
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blumenauer
 Blunt
 Boccieri
 Boehner
 Bonner
 Bono Mack
 Boozman
 Boswell
 Boyd
 Brady (PA)
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Bright
 Broun (GA)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Buchanan
 Burgess
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Buyer
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardoza

Kildee
 Kilpatrick (MI)
 Kilroy
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kirkpatrick (AZ)
 Kissell
 Klein (FL)
 Kline (MN)
 Kosmas
 Kratovil
 Kucinich
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NY)
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Linder
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Luján
 Lummis
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Maffei
 Maloney
 Manzullo
 Markey (CO)
 Markey (MA)
 Marshall
 Massa
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McCotter
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McHugh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McMahan
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, George
 Minnick
 Mitchell
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (KS)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Murtha
 Nadler (NY)
 Napolitano
 Nadler (NY)
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Nye
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paul
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Perlmutter
 Perriello
 Peters
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe (TX)
 Polis (CO)
 Pomeroy
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Reyes
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Ross
 Rothman (NJ)
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schauer
 Schiff
 Schmidt

Boren
 Boucher
 Boustany
 Brown, Corrine
 Cao
 Delahunt
 Doyle
 Dreier
 Emerson
 Flake
 Gallegly
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Hall (NY)
 Hinchey
 Johnson (IL)
 Jordan (OH)
 Kennedy
 Kirk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 McCaul
 Miller, Gary
 Moran (VA)
 Myrick
 Olson
 Pascrell
 Pence
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Roskam
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Schock
 Scott (GA)
 Shea-Porter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stark
 Thompson (PA)
 Turner
 Walz
 Wamp
 Welch

NOT VOTING—47

NOT VOTING—47

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have less than 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1911

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, today, March 16th, I was detained in my district and therefore missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 125 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 987—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office". Had I been present I would have also voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 126 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 1217—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building." Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 127 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 1284—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 125, 126, and 127.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I was unexpectedly detained in my district due to a flight delay and missed three votes. If present, I would have voted: "yea" on H.R. 987; "yea" on H.R. 1217; and "yea" on H.R. 1284.

SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON WILL LEAD ROBUST HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, Secretary Clinton called the President of Sri Lanka to express deep concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in northern Sri Lanka. She stated clearly that the army should not fire on civilians, that international organizations should have full access to the thousands of people trapped inside the conflict area, and she condemned the Tamil Tigers for their atrocities. It was a strong human rights statement.

Last Wednesday, Secretary Clinton stood up for the rights of women when she hosted the 2009 International Women of Courage Awards. She noted those women whose governments kept them from traveling to Washington to receive this honor.

She also met with the Chinese Foreign Minister. She told him that every nation seeking to lead in the inter-

national community must live by the global rules that determine whether people enjoy the right to live freely and participate fully, including the freedom to speak out, to worship, and to live and work with dignity.

Secretary Clinton is committed to a strong human rights agenda, and I look forward to working with her and promoting human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN,
MARCH 13, 2009.

STATEMENT BY GORDON DUGUID, ACTING
DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

On March 13, Secretary Clinton called Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa to express the United States' deep concern over the deteriorating conditions and increasing loss of life occurring in the Government of Sri Lanka-designated "safe zone" in northern Sri Lanka. The Secretary stated that the Sri Lankan Army should not fire into the civilian areas of the conflict zone. The Secretary offered immediate and post-conflict reconstruction assistance and she extended condolences to the victims of the March 10 bombing outside a mosque in southern Sri Lanka. She condemned the actions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are reported to be holding civilians as human shields, and to have shot at civilians leaving LTTE areas of control.

Secretary Clinton called on President Rajapaksa to devise a political solution to the ongoing conflict. She urged the President to give international humanitarian relief organizations full access to the conflict area and displaced persons camps, including screening centers.

The United States believes that a durable and lasting peace will only be achieved through a political solution that addresses the legitimate aspirations of all of Sri Lanka's communities. We call on the Sri Lankan Government to put forward a proposal now to engage Tamils who do not espouse violence or terrorism, and to develop power sharing arrangements so that lasting peace and reconciliation can be achieved.

(March 11, 2009)

2009 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE
AWARDS

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, SECRETARY OF
STATE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROOM, WASH-
INGTON, DC

Secretary Clinton: Well, this is such an exciting occasion, and there were so many people who wanted to come today, but unfortunately, there is a limit to how many people we can let into this magnificent room. So there are people watching on closed-circuit TV all over this building, and beyond.

And it is my pleasure to welcome you to the State Department to celebrate International Women's Day with a very special event and a very special guest. The event is the International Women of Courage Awards, and in a minute, you will meet these remarkable women and learn more about their lives and their work. And I am especially delighted to thank one person in particular whose presence here means a great deal to all of us—our First Lady, Michelle Obama. (Applause.)

Now, I know a little bit about the role that—(laughter)—Michelle Obama is filling now. And I have to say that in a very short time, she has, through her grace and her wisdom, become an inspiration to women and girls not only in the United States, but around the world. And it is so fitting that

she would join us here at the State Department to celebrate the achievements of other extraordinary women, and to show her commitment to supporting women and girls around the globe.

She understands, as we all do here at the State Department, that the status of women and girls is a key indicator of whether or not progress is possible in a society. And so I am very grateful to her and to President Obama, who earlier today announced the creation of the White House Interagency Council on Women and Girls. That will—(applause). That office will help us collaborate across every department and agency in our government.

President Obama has also designated an ambassador-at-large to consolidate our work on women's global issues here at the State Department. Now, this is a position that has never existed before, and I am very pleased that someone you all know, if you have ever worked on women's issues—know and appreciate a longtime colleague and friend, Melanne Verwee, who's been nominated to fill that post. (Applause.)

And I also want to thank Ambassador Susan Rice and our excellent U.S. delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which is in the middle of its annual meetings now, for the work that they are doing and for the engagement that they demonstrate.

Today, we're focusing on the International Women of Courage Awards. It's a fairly new tradition here at the State Department, but it's already become a cherished institution. For the past three years, our embassies have sent us stories of extraordinary women who work every day, often against great odds to advance the rights of all human beings to fulfill their God-given potential. Today, we recognize eight of those women. Each is one of a kind, but together they represent countless women and men who strive daily for justice and opportunity in every country and on every continent, usually without recognition or reward.

And I want to say a special word about someone who could not join us, who we honor today—Reem Al Numery, who was forced to marry her older cousin when she was just 12 years old. She is now fighting to obtain a divorce for herself and end child marriage in Yemen. She was not able to be here, but we honor her strength and we pledge our support to end child marriage everywhere, once and for all. (Applause.)

We also express our solidarity with women whose governments have forbidden them from joining us, especially Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been kept under house arrest in Burma for most of the past two decades, but continues to be a beacon of hope and strength to people around the world. Her example has been especially important to other women in Burma who have been imprisoned for their political beliefs, driven into exile, or subjected to sexual violence by the military.

Our honorees and the hundreds of millions of women they represent not only deserve our respect, they deserve our full support. When we talk about human rights, what I think of are faces like these. What I am committed to is doing everything in my power as Secretary of State to further the work on the ground in countries like those represented here to make changes in peoples' lives. That doesn't happen always in the halls of government. It happens day to day in the towns and cities, the villages and countryside where the work of human rights goes on.

We simply cannot solve the global problems confronting us, from a worldwide financial crisis to the risks of climate change to chronic hunger, disease, and poverty that sap the energies and talents of hundreds of

millions of people when half the world's population is left behind. The rights of women—really, of all people—are at the core of these challenges, and human rights will always be central to our foreign policy.

Earlier today I met with Foreign Minister Yang of China and conveyed to him, as I do in my meetings with all other leaders, that it is our view in the Obama Administration that every nation seeking to lead in the international community must not only live by, but help shape the global rules that will determine whether people do enjoy the rights to live freely and participate fully. The peace, prosperity and progress that we know are best served and best serve human beings come when there is freedom to speak out, to worship, to go to school, enjoy access to health care, live and work with dignity.

The United States is grounded in these ideals, and our foreign policy must be guided by them. Indeed, our own country must continually strive to live up to these ideals ourselves. Not only does smart power require us to demand more of ourselves when it comes to human rights, but to express those views to others and to actually assist those who are on the frontlines of human rights struggles everywhere.

It is important that we focus on human rights because I know what inspiration it has given to me over many years. The people I have met, they have constantly reminded me of how much work lies ahead if we are to be the world of peace, prosperity and progress that we all seek.

I've met a lot of people, particularly women, who have risked their lives—from women being oppressed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, to mothers seeking to end the violence in Northern Ireland, to citizens working for freedom of religion in Uzbekistan, and NGOs struggling to build civil society in Slovakia, to grassroots advocates working to end human trafficking in Asia and Africa, and local women in India and Bangladesh, Chile, Nicaragua, Vietnam and many other places who are leading movements for economic independence and empowerment.

These personal experiences have informed my work. And I will continue to fight for human rights as Secretary of State in traditional and especially non-traditional ways and venues.

All of you gathered here represent the kind of broad coalition that we need—business leaders, NGO leaders, ambassadors, experts, people from every corner of our government, citizens who are moved and touched by the stories of courage that we will be hearing some more of today.

And it is exciting that we have now in our own country someone who is standing up for the best of America, a woman who understands the multiple roles that women play during the course of our lives, and fulfills each one with grace. An example of leadership, service, and strength. It is my great pleasure and honor to introduce the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. (Applause.)

(The First Lady makes remarks.)

(Applause.)

Secretary Clinton: Thank you so much, Mrs. Obama, and it's exciting to have your leadership and example for not only girls and women in our country, but those around the world.

Now, we're going to start with the extraordinary women who we honor today. The first woman, Wazhma Frogh, from Afghanistan, is being recognized for her courageous efforts to combat sexual and domestic violence and child and marital rape throughout Afghanistan, despite facing dangerous conditions. She has come a long way, and we stand in solidarity with her and the people of Afghanistan. (Applause.)

Next, from Guatemala, Norma Cruz. We are recognizing her for her unyielding efforts to end the culture of impunity surrounding the murder and other forms of violence against women in Guatemala. At great risk to her personal safety, Norma Cruz has been outspoken and extraordinarily brave, and we are honored to have her with us today. Norma Cruz. (Applause.)

Suaad Allami, from Iraq. I told Suaad when we were waiting to come out how pleased I was to see her, and how grateful we are for the progress that we've seen, but we know how much more needs to be done in her country. And we honor her for bravely promoting the legal rights, the health, the social well-being and the economic and political empowerment of women in Iraq, despite threats to her own safety. Thank you so much, Suaad. (Applause.)

Veronika Marchenko, from Russia. We honor her for her stalwart leadership in seeking justice for the families of bereaved service members, young men conscripted into the Russian Army. For her commitment to seeking the truth and in promoting improved human rights conditions for those who serve in the Russian army, and being a networking presence to bring together those who served and their families to find answers to so many of the questions that no one had ever, ever bothered to answer before. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

Our next honoree is from Uzbekistan, Mutabar Tadjibayeva, for her courage, her conviction, her perseverance in promoting human rights, the rule of law, and good governance in Uzbekistan, and for standing up for justice at great personal risk. Mutabar is someone who has been in prison for quite some time, and she still has a big smile on her face, and I salute her courage and her persistence. (Applause.)

From Niger, Hadizatou Mani. Hadizatou is such an inspiring person. Enslaved by being sold at a very young age, she never gave up on herself or on her deep reservoir of human dignity. When she finally escaped from slavery, she didn't forget those who were still enslaved. For her inspiring courage in successfully challenging an entrenched system of caste-based slavery, and securing a legal precedent that will help countless others seek freedom and justice, we honor and salute her. (Applause.)

You know, before I introduce our final honoree, who will respond on behalf of all of the honorees, I just want to say that over the course of many years of doing human rights work, and particularly on behalf of girls and women, I'm sometimes asked, well, do ceremonies like this really matter; is that just not something, you know, that you do and it's a nice feeling, and then you go back to wherever you came from?

I know that these kinds of recognitions and moments of honor by both governments and NGOs and other institutions and individuals are extremely important. They provide a recognition of an individual's struggle and courage that stands for so much more. They provide a degree of awareness about the problems that the individual is fighting to remedy. They serve notice on governments that the first and highest duty is for every government to protect the human rights of every individual within that jurisdiction. And they provide a degree of protection.

And so I salute those in the State Department who have recognized the importance of this and kept it going, and we are proud to continue that tradition.

Our final speaker, Ambiga Sreenevasan, has a remarkable record of accomplishment in Malaysia. She has pursued judicial reform and good governance, she has stood up for religious tolerance, and she has been a resolute advocate of women's equality and their full

political participation. She is someone who is not only working in her own country, but whose influence is felt beyond the borders of Malaysia. And it is a great honor to recognize her and invite her to the podium. (Applause.)

Ms. Sreenevasan: The First Lady Mrs. Obama, Madame Secretary Hillary Clinton, ladies and gentlemen, I am humbled to be in the company of seven extraordinary women receiving this award for courage, and I am deeply honored to now speak on their behalf and on mine.

We accept this award in all humility, remembering that we have been fortunate in being singled out from among countless courageous women in our countries who are dedicated to the cause of equality and justice.

It is also timely for us to remember all the women in other conflict-ridden territories, like Palestine and other countries, who have to show courage every single day in their struggle to survive and to keep their families together.

Each of us fights causes that promote equality and justice, and by presenting us with this award you honor those causes and all the people who work tirelessly for them with unflinching dedication.

This award will help to bring to the international stage our voices and our advocacy on these important issues. This occasion gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the rule of law in promoting the rights of women around the world. When the rule of law is upheld, equality is upheld, the cause of justice is upheld, and human rights are upheld.

Today, we are witnessing a struggle for the souls of our nations, taking place between the forces of the old and the forces of change. We see our commitment to the rule of law, fundamental liberties, and the independence of our institutions being tested. The strength of our nations will depend on how well they withstand this test.

There are those who claim that democracy is a Western concept and is unsuitable elsewhere. There are yet others who perpetrate injustices behind a veneer of democracy. We say that democracy is universal, and a true democracy and the rule of law will prevail when the collective voices of the people are raised in its support.

On my part, I have for the past two years had the privilege to lead and serve the Malaysian Bar, a professional organization consisting of approximately 13,000 lawyers. History will bear testament to the fact that the Malaysian Bar has always been true to its first article of faith, to uphold the cause of justice without regard to its own interests or that of its members uninfluenced by fear or favor. In a sense, I was merely stepping into the shoes of the many other brave leaders of the bar who came before me, whereas many of the awardees today are pioneers in their struggle for justice.

This award has given us the opportunity which we would not otherwise have had, to share our stories, our successes, our failures, to reach out across our borders and to establish a base upon which we can build a meaningful network of support. These stories must be told in all our countries. By this experience, we are both enriched and enraged; enriched by what we have shared, and enraged that so many of our sisters endure intimidation and suffering in their countries. Nevertheless, ours is a message of hope that something has been achieved, despite the odds.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This means that although we may come from different walks of life, our struggle is common. And each success is a success for all,

just as each failure is a failure for all. When we unite on a human rights platform, whether domestically or internationally, above politics and political alliances, we create more enduring partnerships and relationships. When we pursue freedom and empowerment for others, we reaffirm and protect our own.

In my interaction with the other awardees present here today, it was evident that the passion we feel for our causes is driven by the love of our homelands and our people. That, in turn, drives our passion for what is right and what is just. Our people deserve nothing less. We all believe in striving for ideals that are—if I may borrow the words—self-evident; namely, the ideals of truth, justice, goodness, and universal love and understanding. Our stories are a testament to the universality of these ideals.

We are truly and deeply honored by this award, more so, when it comes from you, Madame Secretary, yourself a woman of courage, who has inspired women around the world to reach great heights. Your untiring efforts in championing women's rights worldwide are well known. Your immortal words that, "Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights," resonate with all of us here.

We would also like to express our deep admiration for the First Lady Mrs. Obama, and we would also like to express our appreciation for your sharing this moment with us. Madame Secretary, on behalf of all the awardees, I thank you. And we accept the honor with humility and pride. Thank you. (Applause.)

Secretary Clinton: Thank you. These women of courage will serve to remind us every day as we do our work in this venerable building—here we are in the Benjamin Franklin Room, and I'm about to invite you to join our reception in the Thomas Jefferson Room—that our own country has a lot to live up to. But we derive inspiration from those who are struggling so hard just to realize the basic rights that we sometimes take for granted. And it is our responsibility not only to continue to do what we must here at home to realize the dream that America represents, but to use our talents and our abilities and resources to help others as well.

It is such a great privilege to be here with all of you, to be the Secretary of State at this moment of history in an administration represented by Mrs. Obama today, led by President Obama, who means so much already to so many around the world. Now, it's our job to realize the promise that that represents. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 12, 2009]

CLINTON REITERATES U.S. COMMITMENT TO 'ROBUST' RIGHTS AGENDA

(By Glenn Kessler)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, under fire for some of her recent remarks on human rights, insisted yesterday that the Obama administration regards the issue at the same level as economics and international security.

"A mutual and collective commitment to human rights is [as] important to bettering our world as our efforts on security, global economics, energy, climate change and other pressing issues," Clinton told reporters after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the State Department. She said she had raised with Yang the issue of Tibet and a resumption of a U.S.-China human rights dialogue.

"The Obama administration is absolutely committed to a robust, comprehensive human rights agenda," she said. "We're going to look for ways where we can be effec-

tive, where we can actually produce outcomes that will matter in the lives of people who are struggling for their rights to be full participants in their societies."

Last month, during her first trip as chief U.S. diplomat to Asia, Clinton provoked human rights activists by saying that pressing China on that issue "can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crisis." On matters such as greater freedom for Tibetans, Clinton said, "We pretty much know what [Beijing is] going to say."

Then, while traveling in the Middle East last week, Clinton appeared to play down human rights issues in Egypt and Turkey that had been raised in recent State Department reports, earning her further criticism.

"She has missed unique opportunities," said Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), one of the leading congressional voices on human rights. Secretary of State Condoleezza "Rice started out strong and ended weak," he said. "But Secretary Clinton is starting out weak."

Human rights activists were further upset Tuesday by the State Department releasing a statement on Tibet in the name of spokesman Robert A. Wood, after Wood had announced hours earlier that it would be issued in Clinton's name, on the eve of her meeting with Yang. Foreign governments tend to give greater weight to statements issued in the name of the secretary of state or the president, rather than spokesmen or press secretaries.

Wood refused yesterday to discuss "internal deliberations" of the State Department and said: "The statement that we issued last night has the full weight of the secretary. It was cleared by the secretary, and it represents the secretary's views."

Department officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were discussing internal deliberations, said the original announcement was an error. They noted that State had never issued a statement on the anniversary of Tibet's failed uprising against Chinese rule but that on the 50th anniversary, Clinton wanted such a statement despite the awkward timing of the Yang meeting. The meeting was scheduled mostly to discuss planning for the April 2 Group of 20 summit, which will focus on the world economic crisis.

The statement was issued in Wood's name because Clinton decided to address the media herself after the session with Yang, officials said.

Some sources said a draft statement on Tibet was more detailed and explicit, urging, for instance, the release of Tibetan prisoners. But other officials disagreed, saying that those elements were not in the statement when it reached Clinton's office and that she personally strengthened parts of it.

Wang is scheduled to meet today with President Obama at the White House, officials said yesterday.

SOMEBODY ELSE'S MONEY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Uncle Sam keeps giving away taxpayer money to businesses that claim they are too important to fail. Some of these irresponsible corporations helped bring on this economic crisis.

Our government seems to be just as irresponsible in the way that it spends America's money. AIG received \$85 billion in bailout money from our gra-

vious government, but the Feds put little or no restrictions on that money. So, AIG is giving \$165 million of that money in bonuses to its own employees. You know, those are the same people that put AIG in this economic turmoil.

To make matters worse, since \$85 billion wasn't enough, irresponsible Uncle Sam is promising to fork over \$30 billion more of somebody else's money to AIG. Now we learn AIG is sending some of that taxpayer money to Europe, including French banks.

Normally the government should not tell private businesses how to operate, but when 80 percent of the business is run by the government, as AIG is, the government has the duty to protect taxpayer money. Thus far, Uncle Sam has had a reckless disregard for the way it throws citizen money around.

And that's just the way it is.

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CONGRATULATING JACK YATES HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and congratulate my constituents' Jack Yates High School basketball team that won the State of Texas' championship.

It is important to emphasize when young people are committed to excellence, and I want to congratulate this school for never giving up, never giving out, and never giving in, as I have heard so often from my good friend and colleague.

It is important to note that this school was challenged to be closed some 3 years ago. But yet not only have they excelled academically, they excelled on the basketball court, having lost some of their star players in the last school year.

Congratulations to their great coach. Congratulations to those students who were persevering. And isn't it exciting to win their first championship since the 1940s?

Go Jack Yates, a great basketball team. We're excited, and we are proud of you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA DOES BEST WHEN WE STICK TO OUR BASIC VALUES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for many years I have been calling upon our Nation's leaders to reject war as an instrument of foreign policy and to emphasize diplomacy. Today I rise to praise the Obama administration for opening a new page in our relations with the world by showing that it is ready to talk with friends and foes alike.

In just a short time, the administration has taken a number of important steps. It has sent an envoy to Syria, a nation which must be part of a comprehensive solution to the conflicts in the Middle East. The administration has announced its willingness to work with China on such critical issues as the global economy, on energy, and the environment. President Obama is trying to get Russia's help in convincing the Iranians to give up their ambitions of nuclear weapons, and they are encouraging our NATO partners to resume high-level relations with Russia. These relations, as we remember, were suspended after Russia's military operation against Georgia 6 months ago.

In the State Department, Secretary of State Clinton said that the United States will hold a high-level conference in Afghanistan, a conference to bring together the nations of the region and members of the international community for serious talks. Most importantly, Secretary Clinton has said that Iran is likely to be invited to this conference because, Mr. Speaker, we must talk to Iran if we're going to reduce tensions between our two countries.

President Obama promised to reach out to Iran during the presidential campaign even though he took a lot of political heat during that time. Now the President is making good on his pledge, and I, for one, applaud him for that. Of course, there are some who oppose these diplomatic overtures.

America's 6-year occupation of Iraq, Mr. Speaker, has weakened the ability of our Armed Forces to respond to real threats elsewhere in the world, and our occupation of Afghanistan hasn't defeated the Taliban. So now we must protect against sinking even deeper into an endless conflict in that part of the world.

Those who think that diplomacy won't work should read the article in today's Washington Post by Fareed Zakaria. He says the following: "The Washington establishment treats compromise as treason and negotiations as appeasement. It believes that the only way to deal with other countries is by issuing a series of demands. This is not foreign policy," he says. "It's imperial policy. And it isn't likely to work in today's world."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with him on that because I think it's exactly right.

If we are going to achieve our foreign policy goals, we must use all the tools of soft power, which really should be called "smart power," because these tools include diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and conflict resolution.

Mr. Speaker, America does best when we stick to our basic values of peace and justice. These values are the real source of our strength, and they are the values that will help us build a world that's peaceful and safe.

HONORING DAVE LAWRENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor a great constituent of my congressional district, Mr. Dave Lawrence of South Florida, for his upcoming recognition as the American Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian of the Year.

In order to be named Humanitarian of the Year, Mr. Speaker, the International Red Cross requires that a person possess these qualities: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, and unity. Well, anyone who has spent even just a moment with Dave Lawrence can see that he embodies these very qualities. He brings them into every activity of his life and every endeavor that he pursues.

Mr. Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Florida, where his many distinguished academic accomplishments earned him the title of "Outstanding Journalism Graduate." Mr. Lawrence's subsequent career in journalism would take him across our country from a position as editor of the Charlotte Observer to Detroit, where he served as the publisher and executive editor of The Free Press.

In 1989, to our community's great fortune, he settled down in South Florida, where he was the publisher for the Miami Herald for 10 successful years. As a journalist, Dave Lawrence was honored with the First Amendment Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the IAPA Commentary Award for the elegance of his writing. Under his leadership the Miami Herald brought home five Pulitzer Prizes in a decade.

In 1999 Mr. Lawrence retired from journalism to pursue another passion. Leaving his distinguished career as a journalist behind him, Dave's altruism would rival even those individuals of the many philanthropic organizations that he has led, such as the United Way and the University of Florida Foundation. This calling was one for which he had already proven himself quite adept with his own five children.

South Florida's Father's Day Council recognized him as their Father of the Year, and the Family Counseling Services honored him; his wife, Roberta; his three daughters; and his two sons with the title "Family of the Year."

Dave's calling was to prepare as many children as possible for their education at the earliest possible opportunity. His crusade gathered steam when he led the voters of Miami-Dade County to authorize The Children's Trust, which provides an independent source of revenue devoted solely to the children of South Florida. His success in this campaign earned him two prestigious appointments by Governor Jeb Bush.

As the Chair of both the Florida Partnership for Childhood Readiness and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection, Dave Lawrence served as the steward of the early education program for Florida's children. From these positions he was able to play a crucial role in the fight to amend the constitution of our great State of Florida. Now, thanks in large part to his efforts, all of the children of our great State of Florida have access to quality pre-kindergarten education so that they may have a proper foundation for learning that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Dave Lawrence, I hope that you know how great you have been to our children, to our South Florida community, and, indeed, to our Nation.

The global economy will continue to grow, and yet our world will become smaller, and the competition in it will be even more fierce. But thanks to the philanthropic efforts of Mr. David Lawrence, the children of Florida will have the head start that they need to stay competitive and ensure that America remains the greatest democratic country in the history of the world.

Dave, we owe you a debt of gratitude, and no one deserves to be honored by the American Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian of the Year award more than you.

Felicidades, mi amigo. Congratulations, my friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CRIME BY FOREIGN NATIONALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the crime committed in the United States by foreign nationals is hard to determine. The statistics are all over the map. But let me give you some tonight.

The 9/11 Families For a Secure America say that 32 percent of all people incarcerated in the United States are in the United States illegally.

Recently, I had the opportunity to go to south Texas to visit some of our sheriffs on the Texas-Mexico border. There are 16 counties in Texas that

border Mexico. Two of those are Culberson County, where Sheriff Oscar Carrillo is the sheriff. The other one is Hudspeth County, where Arvin West is the sheriff. I was their guest over the weekend a couple of weeks ago.

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And I was asking them this very question, "How can we determine if the cross-border travelers are committing crime in the United States? Does it all stay in Mexico, where we know there is corruption and violent crime, or does it come over to the United States?"

Well, Sheriff Arvin West gave me this statistic. There are two jails in Hudspeth County, one has a little over 100, and the other one is a private jail of over 500. He said most of the people in both of those jails are foreign nationals.

And I asked him, "Are these people charged with immigration violations or are they charged with other crimes?" He said, "No, they are charged with committing crimes in my county." He said, in fact, the jail that has a little over 100, every person in the jail is illegally in the United States except for one person. He said, "If I didn't have cross-border travelers committing crime in my county, I wouldn't need a jail except for two people, one for a male and one for a female."

So we do understand that crime is coming into the United States from cross-border travelers because the United States does not enforce the rule of law on the Texas-Mexico border or the southern border of the United States.

The Justice Department has said that 80 percent of the crime in the United States now is drug related or gang related. Newsweek recently reported that Phoenix, Arizona, is the No. 1 kidnapping capital in the United States, and most of it's related to the drug cartels and human trafficking.

Recently Sheriff Arpaio from Maricopa County in Phoenix has been arresting folks that are illegally in the United States pursuant to a Federal program called the 287g Program. Federal funds go to local communities to train local peace officers to enforce immigration violations.

It's been so successful that he's now being investigated by the Federal authorities, not for seeing how successful it is, but to see if he is following the rule of law, because some people who want open borders are complaining about his work. Of course, he says, he welcomes the investigation because maybe the Federal Government could do their job better. But it's important that agencies all work together. We are all in this together.

Even my hometown in Houston is changing its attitude. For years the City of Houston has been accused by some of being a sanctuary city, like San Francisco. It claims it's not a sanctuary city, even though the Center For Immigration Studies says there are over 400,000 illegals in the City of Houston.

So at least 400,000 doesn't make you a sanctuary city, but be that as it may, violence has occurred against our peace officers, Officer James Harris, Officer Andrew Winzer, Officer Florentino Garcia, Officer Guy Gaddis, Officer Rodney Johnson and Officer Gary Gryder, a personal friend of mine. You may not know those names, Mr. Speaker, but those are all Houston police officers killed by foreign nationals, most of them illegally in the country.

As recently as March 5, Officer Richard Salter was trying to arrest an individual with an arrest warrant, and he was shot in the face by that individual. He was an individual from El Salvador who had been through the criminal justice system five times, ordered deported, and apparently he never went back to where he came from or he crossed the border again.

It's important that foreign nationals understand that we will not tolerate crime committed by them in the United States. And it makes no difference whether those people are legally in the United States or illegally in the United States.

You come to America, and you commit a crime, and you are a foreign national, those people need to be sent home first. We need to tell them to pack their toothbrush, you don't have a right to stay in this country. And our government, working with local authorities, ought to do everything it can to send those people back home.

You don't have a right to come here and commit crime and stay here. And we should enforce the rule of law first with those foreign nationals that commit crime in the United States. After all, it is the duty of our government.

The first duty of government is not building roads and bridges and naming a bunch of post offices. The first duty of government is to protect the country, protect the citizens that live here. And the government that we have, the United States of America, needs to enforce the rule of law in this country because that is the duty of government.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AIG BONUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, to date, the Federal Government has given American International Group, AIG, \$173 billion in bailout funds.

AIG, which is now 80 percent owned by the American taxpayer, posted a record \$62 billion loss in the fourth quarter of 2008. And that's why this

week the American people were outraged to hear that AIG would be paying out \$165 million in bonuses, courtesy of the United States taxpayer.

To add insult to injury, the bulk of the payments are going to employees of AIG Financial Products, the unit of the company that sold the risky contracts that caused massive losses for AIG. The American people are angry and frustrated. They want to know why are we giving taxpayer money to failing companies so they can hand out bonuses?

Mr. Speaker, last fall I voted against this \$700 billion government bailout because I do not believe American taxpayers should pick up the tab for the poor business decisions and greed of high-flying Wall Street firms. Because the bailout was authorized, every American taxpayer has an interest in ensuring that the U.S. Treasury does not recklessly squander their hard-earned money.

And the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Paulson, as former CEO of Goldman Sachs, allowed Lehman Brothers to fail, but AIG got a bailout. AIG went on to pay out \$13 billion of that Federal aid to trading partner Goldman Sachs.

And now, thanks to the American taxpayer, AIG is still doling out hundreds of millions of dollars in employee benefits and retention pay. To the taxpayers who are footing the bill, the Federal Government's selection of winners and losers just does not meet the smell test.

The lack of oversight in the process is outrageous. Employees in eastern North Carolina, which I have the privilege to represent, are not rewarded bonuses when their companies lose money.

Constituents in my district want to know why should the employees of Wall Street be any different? I join the American taxpayers in their frustration. I pay taxes, and I'm frustrated too.

Unfortunately, all we hear from AIG chairman Ed Liddy is that AIG's hands are tied because these bonuses are based on binding contracts that were made before the government bailout. Well, Mr. Speaker, this Congress and the current administration better make sure that no further corporate bonuses are paid for with taxpayers' money.

I thank President Obama for speaking out so clearly and plainly about these retention bonuses because, like those of us in Congress, he has been hearing from frustrated taxpayers. I call on the Federal Government to explore every legal option available to block these excessive and undeserved bonuses on behalf of the taxpayers of America.

And in closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and may God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FORGOTTEN LESSONS OF HISTORY: FIXING THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, picking up where the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) left off, I, too, wish to address the subject of American International Group, also known as AIG.

As we have recently heard, having run the company into the ground and receiving a taxpayer bailout, roughly \$173 billion, they are now going to give themselves \$165 million in bonuses, the argument being that the contracts were entered into prior to the government bailout and, thus, darn the luck, their hands are tied. They will have to accept this money.

And yet I think of another instance where taxpayer funds have been used, one-tenth of the amount, within the auto industry, where, right now, the men and women, white-collar employees and the United Auto Workers' blue-collar workforce, are busy renegotiating contracts so they can earn less in order to justify continued taxpayer support of our domestic auto industry. Clearly they understand what is necessary to restructure and be viable for the future, even if the individuals at AIG do not.

What we are facing now is not only a crisis of confidence within our financial institutions, we are facing a crisis of confidence within our governmental institutions. As taxpayers watch hundreds of billions of their hard-earned dollars be spent on the very financial institutions that brought us to the precipice of a global depression, they now watch those individuals being rewarded with bonuses in amounts that no working family will ever see in a lifetime of sweat equity put into their professions and their careers.

And they feel that it is unjust, that it is wrong. And they wonder how much longer this can continue. The sovereign American people want to know when their representative government will end the bailout of people such as AIG and restore order to our financial markets and justice to the taxpayers of the United States.

Too often we forget the lessons of history, and so I would like to remind us of one. From 1832, when President Andrew Jackson confronted the Second Bank of the United States, he said, "Gentlemen, I have had men watching you for a long time, and I am convinced that you have used the funds of the bank to speculate in the breadstuffs of the country. When you won, you divided the profits amongst you, and when you lost, you charged it to the bank. You tell me that if I take the deposits from the bank and annul the charter, I shall ruin 10,000 families. That may be true, gentlemen, but that is your sin. Should I let you go on, you will ruin 50,000 families, and that would be my sin."

Toward the end of February we heard that the administration was in discussions with AIG to potentially reprivatize that institution, to have the government throw out their governing boards that have brought us to this point, take control and break them up and sell them off. That would be in the best interests of the American people.

For the continuation of the theory that a necessary evil requires propping them up and allowing them to profit at taxpayer expense for the misfeasance that they have wrought would be unjust. Because, as Andrew Jackson also pointed out, there are no necessary evils in government.

It is time for the American people's representative government to take swift and decisive action, stop the bleeding of the taxpayers, put AIG out of our misery and help restore confidence and stability to America's financial markets.

IRANIAN THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, while much of the attention here in Congress is focused on the difficulties here at home, as we have heard in speeches this evening, rising unemployment rates, home mortgage foreclosures, increasing health care costs, stock market decline, I rise tonight to remind us that we cannot forget about the pressing challenges to global stability and our national security interests posed by Iran.

One of the best ways to understand the seriousness of the Iranian threat is to listen to the words of its leaders. Iran's President has called the Holocaust a lie, has said that Israel "must be wiped off the map" and frequently speaks about a future world in which "Israelis will be eradicated" and Israel no longer exists. Iran's supreme leader joined in this hateful refrain recently when he called Israel a cancerous tumor.

The hatred of Iran's leaders is not just directed at Israel. Ahmadinejad has called American objectives and influence "Satanic" and has spoken be-

fore crowds that chant "death to America." Such aggressive and intolerable words are not just simply rhetoric. They represent the policies of a government committed to terror and destruction.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and is pursuing a nuclear program in defiance of three United Nations Security Council resolutions. Iran's support for terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas have enabled these organizations to carry out attacks on Israel and kill innocent civilians. With training and other assistance from Iran, Hamas increased the range of its rockets so now 1 million Israelis are within the scope of attack.

Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons threatens Israel, other nations in the region and our U.S. national security. No government that calls for the complete destruction of another nation should be allowed to have nuclear weapons. Yet Iran continues to move closer and closer to being capable of constructing such a weapon.

Although Iran reportedly does not currently have a sufficient amount of highly-enriched uranium to build a nuclear weapon, Iran does possess enough low-enriched uranium that can be converted into material needed to create an atomic bomb. Using existing centrifuges, Iran could enrich its low-level uranium to that of weapons grade in several months.

Time is not on our side. The Obama administration must back engagement with tougher sanctions and guard against Iranian diversions and delays. Appropriate economic, political, and diplomatic means are the best tools we have to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Last year I cosponsored legislation that declared it was in the national interests of the U.S. to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and urged the President to impose tough sanctions on Iran, specifically its banks engaged in proliferation activities and companies doing business with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

□ 1945

I also voted in favor of legislation that expanded the types of entities in Iran that are subject to sanction and allowed state and local governments and individuals to divest in any company that invests in Iran's energy sectors.

America's efforts must go further. I support sanctioning Iran's Central bank and foreign banks that conduct transactions with sanctioned Iranian entities. Efforts to prohibit the export to Iran of refined petroleum products should be pursued.

Israel is one of America's closest allies and plays a central role in the peace and security of the most volatile region of the world. We must continue to demonstrate our support for our Israeli friends in the face of continued defiance and threats.

A nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable. I urge my colleagues in Congress

and the Obama administration to act with the urgency this situation demands and devote the necessary attention to this serious threat. While there are problems at home that require our attention, we must not waiver in our efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional advocates. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand that all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens and congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens continues to be the focal point for our legislative work in political activity.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to our chairperson, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. First, let me, Mr. Speaker, thank Representative FUDGE and her staff for working with the staff of the Congressional Black Caucus to organize the CBC Special Order every Monday that Congress is in session. This takes quite a bit of time and commitment, but Congresswoman FUDGE, I just want you to know, you continue to play such an important role by ensuring that our voices are heard, that the country hears with regard to the posi-

tions of the Congressional Black Caucus, and our work, and I want to thank you and your staff for your steady and consistent work on this.

Tonight, of course, as Congresswoman FUDGE indicated, we're talking about the foreclosure crisis. As we all know, the roots of this current economic crisis are grounded in the housing market, the explosion of the subprime markets, and the unregulated and uncontrolled growth of the derivatives market that drove some of our largest financial services companies into bankruptcy.

We have to be truthful about this. The economic and fiscal policies of the Bush administration have left our country in a mess. They created this mess.

Many of us—and I remember this very vividly—we warned about this impending housing crisis years ago. As a member of the Financial Services Committee for 8 years, I remember expressing my concern about the housing bubble and the subprime loans that were fueling the housing crisis and also the consequences to our economy if the bubble ever popped. But our warnings fell on deaf ears.

I consistently questioned former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan about the housing bubble. Coming from California, we saw this each and every day—the increasing rates of foreclosure and the rapid growth of subprime and other exotic home mortgages. But, as this crisis was brewing, the Bush administration, the Federal Reserve, and HUD turned a dead ear.

Now, equity in one's home is really the primary path in our country for accumulating wealth, to send one's children to college, to start a small business, and to really enhance the quality of life. Now, this American Dream of homeownership has turned into a nightmare for millions.

The impact of foreclosure also extends far beyond the personal tragedy of the family that loses their home. The foreclosure crisis now has reduced property values throughout the neighborhood. It reduces the revenues for local and State governments. It causes increased prices in the rental markets. The abandoned homes often become the blight of our communities.

We took a bus tour in my own community and saw neighborhoods just totally in shambles as a result of homes that had been foreclosed on.

Unfortunately, predatory lending targeted vulnerable populations. Predatory lenders went after communities of color, went after individuals they knew were vulnerable, and were targets. To me, that should be looked at very seriously, and hopefully one of these days some will be prosecuted for that.

When we tried to encourage the banks to participate in voluntary foreclosure prevention programs to help families in distress, they balked and made every excuse to avoid participating.

Now, millions more families are threatened with bankruptcy and foreclosure. AIG—this is unbelievable—AIG can provide what, \$165 million in bonuses, taxpayer dollars? This is criminal. It's wrong. It's immoral.

For much of the time that I sat on the Financial Services Committee and its subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, I can tell you that much of the work was focused on affordable housing. In fact, I can remember sitting in a subcommittee hearing talking to then-Congressman now-Senator BERNIE SANDERS from Vermont, sketching out the outlines of legislation creating the Federal Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Although I'm glad we were finally able to get this through the Congress, we are all acutely aware of the funding problems we are seeing now as a result of the foreclosure and economic crisis that we are facing today.

So there is much, much work to be done. That is why many of us are pushing for a moratorium on foreclosures. We have been pushing for this from the start of the crisis. That's why we worked to push at every point to include significant and meaningful foreclosure relief and to keep people in their homes, including bankruptcy reform.

But it hasn't been easy, especially given the Bush administration's disastrous economic policies that I mentioned earlier. But these policies range from deregulating the financial industry, to the war in Iraq. Yes, this war in Iraq. \$10 billion a month has been part of this huge problem. These tax cuts to the rich, which created this financial mess.

I mean, this is really an unbelievable moment that this administration has stepped up to the plate on to move forward to help turn this economy around.

Despite the resistant Bush administration, at least we were able to include important Neighborhood Stabilization Funding—over \$8.25 million for my own city last year—in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. Again, thanks to the consistent and effective work of Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS.

Today, finally a new day has dawned and we have hope because the majority in Congress and President Obama understand that we can and we must use every available tool to address this crisis head on.

The Congressional Black Caucus fought hard, fought hard, led by Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to ensure that an additional \$2 billion in Neighborhood Stabilization Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was included. Not enough, but it's a start.

I'm pleased that Secretary Geithner and the President have announced a \$75 billion plan to keep families in their homes and to keep home ownership affordable.

Even with all of our efforts, we all know the enormity and the gravity of this situation, and this requires much more. We have the obligation of making the dream of home ownership accessible to all Americans and to help them achieve those dreams by limiting these unscrupulous lenders—and I mean they are unscrupulous; these unscrupulous brokers—and they are unscrupulous; and these real estate agents, who really seek to profit at the expense of the people that they purport to serve.

We are not casting a net on all of these individuals and institutions, but I think the data shows us that there's been a lot of bad faith, there's been a lot of activity in the financial services and in the real estate industry that really caused us to question a lot of the practices of some of these individuals. I think that there must be more accountability and more oversight and some need to be called on the carpet as a result.

Finally, let me just say that I have to congratulate our Speaker for helping to take strong steps. Chairman FRANK, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS. These individuals work day and night to help us figure out ways to help families in distress, and our bills to improve FHA to create grants to provide home buyers with the incentives to strengthen the oversight of this mortgage industry, which has gone wild, if you ask me.

This movement and some of these initiatives I think will help begin to mitigate some of the damage of this housing crisis. But without the safety net of the courts, the average homeowner will still too often be left to the rise and fall of the markets and the whims of the mortgage marketers. So bankruptcy reform must be enacted.

So, thank you, again, Congresswoman FUDGE, for organizing this Special Order. Thank you for allowing us to raise the alarm once again and to sound the alarm so that the country understands that we are on the case day and night, and this is quite a moment and it's quite a mess that we are faced with as a result of the last 8 years. But I am confident that with President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and our leadership, that we are going to dig ourselves out of this hole.

Thank you, and I yield back.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Chair, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), for her leadership, for her ability to keep the issues that are really pertinent and pressing on the CBC agenda. Madam Chair, I thank you.

I would now like to yield to the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her leadership in organizing this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order this evening. I'd also like to thank Representative FUDGE for yielding so that I may discuss how fore-

closures are adversely affecting so many African American communities—communities in my district and throughout the country. I also want to commend her for her leadership role in organizing us around the issues that have been of such concern and are so critical to the strength and the underpinning of the communities that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus represent.

Let me start by joining my chairwoman, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, in calling for the moratorium on mortgage foreclosures. Tonight, I rise as a member of the 11th Congressional District to state how foreclosures have devastated the lives of two individuals that I represent.

First, there's Mr. Simeon Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson is an 86-year-old retiree from Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He worked for more than 20 years as a chef at the Long Island College Hospital.

In 1975, he bought a three-story brownstone in my district. This benevolent man would grow tomatoes and callaloo leaves—those of you from the Caribbean know what callaloo is—it's sort of a spinach—in his garden and, according to his daughter, would love to give the excess to his neighbors and friends at no cost, as he would cook the rest of it.

But around 3 years ago, a mortgage broker sold Mr. Ferguson, at the age of 83, a new \$450,000 option adjustable rate mortgage that would almost certainly put his home into foreclosure.

□ 2000

Mr. Ferguson had no attorney present at the time during the closing and believed he had made a good deal.

To make matters worse, Mr. Ferguson had dementia, a condition he was diagnosed with in 2005, and had only his Social Security and a pension as sources of income. So this gentleman of Jamaican descent could easily forget to make a mortgage payment that could balloon to such a frightening amount that it would be insurmountable to pay back. Mr. Ferguson is a victim of predatory lending, and now he may lose his home.

Low income, elderly people are experiencing widespread theft of their equity. Elderly people are simply more susceptible to abusive predatory lending practices. Home equity scams are appealing to financial predators because the money is substantially easy to find, and the elderly can be induced into losing the equity in their homes and, even worse, becoming homeless through predatory lending, foreclosure rescue scams, and estate planning. The mortgage foreclosure crisis has had a profoundly injurious impact on our seniors.

Now, as this is the month of March and it is Women's History Month, I thought it would be good to share some of the impact of this crisis on the women of our Nation.

By 2010, women will head almost 28 percent of all households in this Na-

tion. Of families living in poverty in 2001, 50.9 percent were women-headed households with no spouse present. But, in fact, the tremendous growth in the number of women filing for bankruptcy shows that economic instability for women reaches also into the middle class. Unmarried women accounted for 30 percent of the growth in homeowners from 1994 to 2002. Women account for a larger share of the subprime loans than of prime loans. Women are particularly vulnerable to predatory lenders. Women are particularly vulnerable to financial hardship. Older women are at greatest risk. Older women may be open to promises of ready cash if they live on modest fixed incomes that do not cover property tax increases, necessary home repairs, and unanticipated medical expenses. Women are especially susceptible to financial hardship.

I want to share with you now one of the stories of another one of my constituents. Her name is Ms. Waver Brickhouse. At age 69, Ms. Brickhouse is a gray-haired, soft-spoken woman from the Brownsville section of my district. She is a victim of mortgage fraud, and now may have her home put into foreclosure, too. She turned to what she believed to be a home rescue firm, who then secretly sold her home and added at least \$150,000 of fraudulent mortgage debt. This retired City Parks Department worker said in a recent New York Times article, and I quote, "I am going to drown in debt. I feel like it is just a matter of time until I am out on the street with my children."

However, these stories are not irregular in my district. African American seniors in New York and all across this Nation are at risk of losing homes they worked so hard for decades to some day acquire full equity of their property, but at this moment some are facing homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, just listen to the alarming numbers. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, by the fall of 2007, one in four homeowners with subprime mortgages lived in neighborhoods in my district such as Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant, and these mortgages were in foreclosure. In 2008, Federal data reported that there are 5,861 foreclosures in Brooklyn alone. And the Center for Responsible Lending projected that, in 2009, there will be 435 foreclosures in my district, and within the next 4 years that number will rise to 1,448.

Communities such as the one I just mentioned as well as others throughout the Nation collectively lost as much as \$92 billion in wealth over the last 8 years resulting from predatory lending practices within the subprime mortgage crisis.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I intend to introduce legislation. My bill is entitled the Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2009. This bill will provide funding to the National NeighborWorks Association for mortgage foreclosure

mitigation activities. NeighborWorks has been instrumental in partnering with the State of New York Mortgage Agency to not only promote home ownership in underserved communities such as Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and Flatbush, but they also provide foreclosure counseling that could some day help predatory victims like Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Brickhouse.

In addition, I recently voted for H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, which allows for mortgage modifications through the bankruptcy court, and I also support applying the FDIC model. The Federal Deposit Income Insurance Corporation has pioneered a promising approach that, even with some limitations, would strengthen incentives to prevent foreclosures and greatly boost the number of successful loan modifications.

I commend President Obama and his administration for their ongoing efforts to mitigate the damage and assist our families in staying in their homes. But we must also look at ways to advocate for legal reform that would ultimately prevent the elderly from losing their homes. So I urge my colleagues tonight to work together with the CBC to take the lead in addressing the foreclosure crisis and, more important, mitigate the racial disparities of predatory lending and its impact on African American seniors. I want to thank you again, my colleague and the leader of this special order, Congresswoman FUDGE from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, for being a beacon of light this evening to those in our communities who are really struggling to keep their heads above water and, most important, their dignity.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to thank my friend and the outspoken representative from the 11th District of New York. She stands for her people, and I am so appreciative of her participation this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to one who has been so helpful during the CBC hour, who has provided me guidance and support, and I call my co-anchor. And that would be the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for organizing yet another time for us to speak to our colleagues and to the American people on an issue of great importance to them and to all of us. And I want to also thank Chairwoman LEE for her leadership, and our colleagues for joining us this evening, and for their leadership for introducing measures like the Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2009, to be introduced by Congresswoman CLARKE who just spoke.

Mr. Speaker, members of the Congressional Black Caucus are pleased that we are finally beginning to see what may be a glimmer of hope that we will be able to help our country and those most affected climb out of the worst fiscal crisis since the Great De-

pression, a crisis caused by greed, and where the most vulnerable people are the ones suffering the consequences as we have heard this evening.

If one wants to truly fix a problem, one must fix it at its root causes, and the root cause of this current crisis is the housing bubble and the subprime mortgages and the way those were pooled together and then securitized. The initial remedies shored up the government-sponsored enterprises like Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and the banks, but the homeowners were for far too long left holding the bag, an empty bag at that, and, unfortunately, misplaced blame.

At the heart of the American Dream has always been the dream of owning one's home. Unfortunately, too many Americans have seen this dream seriously distorted and deferred by the unhealthy antiregulation environment that gave lenders free rein to push products to unsuspecting customers who simply wanted a chance at that dream. There were 2.3 million foreclosure filings last year.

While some have blamed homeowners for biting off more than they could chew, the truth is that average Americans approach their bankers like they do their doctors, in an atmosphere of trust and vulnerability, and most never imagined that they would be approved if their lender didn't think they could keep up with their payments. But this is not the time for blame, it is the time for action. And I also rise to applaud President Obama, the Democratic-led Congress, Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and others, who have come together to formulate an aggressive campaign to turn around this crisis which has threatened homeowners across this country.

President Barack Obama's comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability plan will help stem foreclosures, keep families in their homes, and stop the plunge in home values for all homeowners. The President and this Congress have moved aggressively to help those in bankruptcy get a loan modification agreement, to help those who are underwater and in need of refinancing get a chance at a new start, and those who are in danger of foreclosure to avoid it altogether by being able to work it out with their banks and lending institutions.

By passing the Helping Families Save Their Home Act, the House has moved towards bringing fairness to families by giving them the same rights to keep their home as someone who owns two or three homes. Without spending one Federal dollar, it gives bankruptcy judges the chance to modify existing mortgages for families who file Chapter 13 so that they can make payments and stay in their homes. It also gives lenders more confidence to modify loans by protecting them from some lawsuits, and strengthens the FHA's Hope for Homeowners program by reducing fees and offering incentives for lenders.

Earlier, the Obama administration revealed the details of other parts of their recovery plan for homeowners aimed at helping those with existing Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgages to refinance, and those who are not yet in foreclosure but are struggling to stay away from it to get a modification from their lending institution.

While the Obama administration has made it clear that not everyone will qualify for help, it is still true that millions can keep their homes under this initiative, saving families, neighborhoods, communities, and, indeed, our economy, from further decline.

There are many people in organizations in addition to the leaders I named earlier who played a role in getting us to this point, and I would be remiss if I did not mention the NAACP's efforts to demonstrate that minority communities were being unfairly targeted with these toxic mortgages. Many have been devastated. The NAACP has filed suit against at least one bank for targeting communities of color for subprime mortgages, and we congratulate them and stand with them on this effort. The Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus also played important roles in ensuring that the focus was expanded to include the homeowner, not just the financial institutions, and that meaningful remedies were put in place for them.

These are all meaningful steps to address the mortgage mess that has been the catalyst to a severe domestic economic downturn that has resonated globally. Our President's plan and the laws that we have passed will not only help everyone who is in or threatened with foreclosure, but we hope that many millions of homeowners who are in trouble will be able to keep their homes.

We are concerned, though, that some of the financial institutions have been turning down Federal help, ostensibly because they don't like the strings that are attached, the oversight, and the requirement for transparency. Accountability and transparency is exactly what would have kept us out of this mess and what is needed going forward, whether they take the money or not.

The White House, HUD, Treasury, and Congress must use any authority that we have to ensure that the financial institutions who themselves have been the recipients of bailouts by the billions, and even those who are refusing, to ensure that they will fully participate in the homeowner rescue initiatives and extend the lifeline that many homeowners need and are praying for.

Fixing the root cause of the problem and making American homeowners whole again, restoring the American Dream, is what will begin to restore confidence in our government's ability to put us on a stable economic course, and what will finally begin to put our country on the road to financial recovery.

I thank you again for hosting this special hour. It has been my pleasure

to work with you on this, and I look forward to doing some more of this in the future.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so very much. I would very much like to thank my colleague for all of her help and support during the CBC hour, and look forward to working with her as well.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has been a strong voice in our Congress for years for the people who are most in need.

□ 2015

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Allow me to thank the gentlelady from Ohio for really taking up the very important mantle of leadership in communicating to our colleagues why we really need to be in a team effort. I was with Senator Rodney Ellis, a State senator in my State, just yesterday. We have to use time when we can, and that was Sunday. We were standing up, along with certainly many members of the State legislature and many Members here in the House, on the great need for receiving stimulus dollars and unemployment dollars in the State of Texas. \$555 million is presently being rejected by this Governor of our State.

And the quote that comes to mind from that State senator was that when people are hurting or unemployed or in foreclosure, they don't see Democrats or Republicans. They just see pain. And that is why I think it is important that we convey to our colleagues that their constituents don't see a Democratic or Republican Congressperson. They just see a major dilemma from which they are wondering how they can get out.

So this evening, I would like to emphasize something that seems to have been lost, and that is that this ongoing foreclosure crisis was percolating way before the inauguration of our present President. And in fact, I'm reading from a document that was dated 2006, and it says "foreclosures up 72 percent from last year." That would have been 2005. That was the last administration. The previous administration was a Republican administration. But I imagine that this number, 72 percent, was not coded according to Democrat or Republican homeowners. But it did say that it was up 72 percent. And it goes on to say that "national foreclosure filings continued to climb in the first 3 months of 2006, evidence that more U.S. homeowners are struggling to stay current on their monthly mortgage payments."

Why, then, wasn't it addressed by the administration during that time? That is 2006, "a total of 323,102 properties nationwide entered some stage of foreclosure in the first quarter of 2006." Again, it mentions "a 72 percent year-over-year increase from the first quarter of 2005 and a 38 percent increase from the previous quarter." It specifically talks about the fact that Texas, Florida and California report the most foreclosures. Now we are a prosperous

State, or at least we are defined as such. It must be because we have government officials suggesting that we don't need unemployment dollars. Texas reported the most first-quarter foreclosures of any State with 40,236, and Florida reported the second most with 29,636, and California was a close third with 29,537 properties entering some stage of foreclosure in the first quarter, again, this is 2006. And let me just say I do know this is 2009.

I think it is important to note that we did not create this crisis. The election of 2008 didn't all of a sudden make it where people are foreclosing. This has been happening. And what we are trying to do is to emphasize that we have to act now. That is why the President is so interested, the administration is so interested in making sure that there is a moratorium, that there is \$75 billion that is being set aside, something that we debated when we were working with the previous administration that you can't give then-Secretary of the Treasury a carte blanche utilization of then the \$350 billion. So many of us argued vehemently about that.

Let me say to my good friend from Ohio that these numbers are not ignoring the fact of how difficult it has been in the Midwest and in Ohio in particular. Again, this was emphasizing the high numbers of big States. But certainly it has Ohio. And it mentions, of course, that you, too, were in the midst of huge foreclosures. In 2006 it looks like you were in the 8,000, 9,000. You kept going up. In February you had 9,000. So you were going up, and the other States were going up as well, which means that this is not an issue for small States, big States, or middle States.

So I come to the floor really to suggest that we are in a crisis that has to be acted upon. That is why so many of us rallied around the Helping Homes legislation that is not a giveaway. It is not a refuge for deadbeats and people who can't handle their finances. It is really, as I indicate on the floor of the House, the bankruptcy provision is the little guy's helping hand, because we bailed out every large entity that we could possibly bail out. Just give the roll call of the big banks, the big investment houses, the big AIGs. We have bailed them out.

When I got on the floor to debate this bankruptcy provision, which we have been trying for a number of years, it would have been helpful if the previous administration had allowed this to go forward in 2006 with these high numbers. And then we could have had individual, responsible families who simply wanted to get time, that is what the bankruptcy does. Nobody goes to the bankruptcy court and says "take my house." We are trying to keep them from going through that humiliating experience of seeing your house auctioned off. And all of us have seen the video on television where we see families sit there with tears in their eyes.

Yes, some people benefit by maybe being able to buy a house. But mostly the people with tears in their eyes, some hoping they could buy it back, others watching their house peter away in an auction process. The Helping Homes that I know my colleague voted on and understood how important it was as a lawyer and former mayor and understands about the tax base that just deteriorates when we lose our home, this just allows the homeowner to go into the courthouse with a trained bankruptcy judge who is not prone to go lightly on people who are frivolously coming in masquerading themselves, never paid a bill in their life, but it allows them, just like you've allowed the big corporations that have gone into bankruptcy to be able to reorder.

And so, it is truly important to ensure, to help the little person, that this bankruptcy bill that has been passed by the House and the Senate, as I understand it, it may be that we move this bill along that will allow the cramdown that everybody talked about, you're going to disadvantage the lender. No, you're not. Because there are now different provisions that puts in that any value that comes through the sale of that house goes back to the lender, there are protections about the cramdown, there are notices that have to be given so that maybe you can modify the loan without going into bankruptcy. And if any lender is smart, they will do that. But at the bottom line, this bankruptcy provision helps hardworking Americans wherever they live to save their house with dignity. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson-Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Fudge, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalez can go in and fix that problem through the courts and save the house for them and their four children or two children. In USA Today, there was an article that you, as a former mayor, would understand, the dumbing down of the amount of money that is going to school districts because we were reaching a crisis of how many homes were being foreclosed and seeing the tax base just dwindle away, in fact, I would say, go rapidly down a fast moving tube.

So it is a ripple effect of not only destroying neighborhoods, which is why these neighborhood stabilization monies in the stimulus package are crucial, but also destroying obviously paramount families, lives, and then the ability to pay for the education of your children, and then, of course, the ultimate dump of a whole town, whole city, a whole hamlet, village, being just blocks and blocks of foreclosed homes.

So I think it is important that we begin to stand on the floor of the House to support America's families. And I can't help but as I speak with you this evening and to my colleagues, I just

have to hold this up because it certainly shows the strength of our President, it says, this is a headline, Obama berates AIG and vows to try and block bonuses. Well, we know there are some legal issues that have been represented to us that provides a problem, but I will just simply say that having practiced in the courts, it is a shame that we couldn't just say, "sue me," which would have just had those individuals who thought that they were owed the bonus to be able to go into the courthouse and try to get the money.

I think I would like to commend our Speaker who has indicated that these moneys should then be paid back now by AIG. If you figured that you couldn't have any other out, you couldn't stand the impact of a lawsuit for people who were getting these huge bonuses, \$160 billion plus, then why don't you go ahead and put on the requirement that they should pay the taxpayers back. But I use this as an example that we have to be able to help these hardworking taxpayers who themselves have suffered because we have not been able to provide the relief.

I just want to add that new home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. That is the sadness of it. Many people were going to use this for retirement, had the ability to pass on a debt-free house to their children. This was the bottom line or the first line of wealth for many Americans. We were told to buy that wonderful nest egg, buy that home that will be a nest egg. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The Nation could be facing a housing depression something worse than the recession.

Of course, we know about the TARP bill that has helped us to move forward. But then again, we realize that there have been, certainly in the first issuance of the dollars, these major problems. And so that is why we have turned our attention, and I want to congratulate Chairman CONYERS, who had been on this issue, in the previous administration we had attempted to get the language put in the TARP.

And many times, Congresswoman FUDGE, the Congress doesn't get the recognition. And certainly none of us are saying me, me, me or I, I, I. And we also know that we are in a business that we are responsible enough to take criticism. But they need to know that we were fighting the Judiciary Committee to get the bankruptcy language into the TARP legislation a way long time ago, recognizing the importance. But it would not, could not be moved forward because of opposition from the then-White House.

And so it is important to note tonight that I am very glad that you had

this particular Special Order so that we could provide the basis of the work that we have done and also ask our colleagues to encourage all of their constituents to seek foreclosure modification in their loan, to not sit by silently, that the banks are now under a burden to not foreclose but to be able to talk to you about loan modification. Everyone should seek loan modification now. Do not suffer in silence, because we realize that it is not only a predatory lending issue which has occurred, but there are people who have regular loans that may be finding themselves in difficulty and have the right for loan modification.

We do want to say that we want to get out of this issue that whenever we see certain economic or certain neighborhoods that that particular lender is a prime target for subprime mortgages. Now some people have indicated to me that subprime mortgages have been used sometimes favorably to allow someone with some challenges. But certainly subprime should not equate to predatory. And there has been predatory lending going on. And so these subprimes have equated to that. And I want the bankers to be able to be more creative than to see certain neighborhoods, certain, if you will, ethnicities or racial groups, and the only thing you can give them is a subprime when their particular portfolio suggests that they are equal or able to take on any regular loan. And what happened is they put more people in subprime based on ethnicity and race.

□ 2030

So I wanted to add as I draw to a close, and I welcome your participating in this legislation that I intend to drop, and that is to ensure that individuals who are in mortgage foreclosure because of subprime and predatory lending will not have that foreclosure on their credit score. You know what happens with credit scoring. When you go into a bank and they pull that score up, hardworking families suffer because of the credit score. Probably they were thrown into the subprime and predatory markets because of that.

So the language says in particular that a foreclosure on a subprime mortgage of a consumer may not be taken into account by any person in preparing or calculating the credit score as defined in subsection F(2) for or with respect to the consumer.

Subprime defined. The term "subprime mortgage" means any consumer credit transaction secured by the principal dwelling of this consumer that bears or otherwise meets the terms and characteristics of such a transaction that the board has defined as subprime mortgage.

So if you have been a victim of predatory lending, we will add that. And you have made every effort through loan modification or you have been caught up in this whirl of confusion, then we don't want to impact your credit score

even more, make it worse, if you will, by adding this foreclosure to you; and, therefore, making it even more impossible for you to then move into a home or buy another home or to transition to get your life in order.

I want our colleagues to realize that this is going to be an ongoing concern. And the fact that it is an ongoing concern means we have to work with our local communities. That is why I have supported the TARP funding to be as responsive to community, regional and private banks as they are to the big banks. I think it is important that we invest in the smaller banks by making sure that they get TARP funds. And I think it is enormously important for the President's mission that says that we should in fact for every dollar lent to these banks, they must lend it out, and we must lend it not only to those who are attempting to modify their loans, but to the new generation of homeowners. Let us not kill off the incentive for others to buy homes, co-ops, condominiums, brownstones, the two stories, the split levels, if you will, two families in one home scenario, we should not take away the American dream of a house.

I believe that if we can watch AIG with some sort of cavalier attitude, giving \$160 million in bonuses and not wanting to issue a report on where the moneys went, we can certainly be helpful to those who are struggling.

I would like to engage the gentle lady in a conversation, particularly as she comes from Ohio, and just get a sense of the impact that comes about when homes are foreclosed. With your experience as a former mayor and how important those local resources are, what happens to a community when there are massive foreclosures and that income doesn't come in any more?

Ms. FUDGE. There are a couple of things that I would like to address. Many people know that Cleveland, which is a major part of my district, has been one of the poorer cities in America for the last 3 years. So when we are talking about more than 10,000 vacancies in a city, which is the case in the city of Cleveland, not only does it destroy neighborhoods, but there are less resources to go to the school or to go to the city for city services, and all of the things that go along with tax dollars. As well, it deflates and devalues all of the property around it.

And it clogs the courts. The foreclosure process is a timing issue because of all the notice requirements. It is a domino effect. It hurts everything that you can think of that has to do with housing. But most importantly, it puts people on the street. We have thousands and thousands of people waiting to get into public housing. We have people who have moved in with other family members. Where do these people go? No one addresses the issue where do these people go. Everyone doesn't have a family that they can move in with. Everyone cannot get a voucher or stay with a friend. Where do these people go?

And then what is compounding the problem is we are now having landlords who have renters in their homes, and haven't told the renters they are in foreclosure. One day the renters wake up and they have a notice on their door saying that they have to move in three days. Or the sheriff saying you must move from these premises. So it becomes a very difficult experience to watch someone lose their home.

I am hopeful that some of the things that we have done in this Congress will stop the bleeding. We may not cure the problem over the short run, but I am very confident that we will over the long run. I certainly hope that some of these things are given a chance. We have given 8 years of opportunity to make things work and they haven't. Give us the same opportunity. I do believe our President is doing the right thing. It is just going to take some time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I think it is important for people to hear stories from all over the country. I think one of the salient points that you have made is how it puts people on the street and how it clogs the courts. Different from the bankruptcy proceedings which allows people to stay in their homes, the foreclosure proceeding is so long and protracted, most people will be abandoning doing their home before it concludes.

I thank the gentlelady from Ohio for being able to both express some of the outrage and pain. And this was not created under this administration. We are trying to be the problem solvers, and it would have just been great if we had looked at this issue from the administration's perspective in 2006 and before. We might then have been able to put our finger in the dike and help those who were on the verge of going over the cliff.

But now we are holding an enormous burden, and I guess the parting words are let's look at the people who are rolling up their sleeves. The media pundits who can criticize rain, if you will. If it is raining, they can criticize that. But people who are trying to build banks backs and make them responsive to our neighborhoods and school districts, let's look at the Federal legislation trying to help people modify their loans and keep them off the streets and save families and school districts. Why don't we listen to that explanation, which I am sure will give us a better understanding than national pundits who make their money off of worrying about whether it is raining and therefore if it is, that gives them a mouthful to criticize. I would rather stand with those who are trying to stand with the American people, and I believe that is what your Special Order has been about tonight. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the

prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally.

New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

I am glad that recently we have seen legislation on the floor the United States House of Representatives. I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP today has included language and we here today are continuing to engage in the dialogue to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures.

Because of the pervasive home foreclosures, federal legislation is necessary to curb the fall out from the subprime mortgage crisis. For consumers facing a foreclosure sale who want to retain their homes, Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code provides some modicum of protection. The Supreme Court has held that the exception to a Chapter 13's ability to modify the rights of creditors applies even if the mortgage is under-secured. Thus, if a Chapter 13 debtor owes \$300,000 on a mortgage for a home that is worth less than \$200,000, he or she must repay the entire amount in order to keep his or her home, even though the maximum that the mortgage would receive upon foreclosure is the home's value, i.e., \$200,000, less the costs of foreclosure.

I have long championed the rights of homeowners, especially those facing mortgage foreclosure. I have worked with the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to include language that would relax the bankruptcy provisions to allow those facing mortgage foreclosure to restructure their debt to avoid foreclosure.

Because I have long championed the rights of homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure in the recent TARP bill and before the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with Chairman CONYERS and his staff to add language in the Helping Americans Save Their Homes bill that would help Americans stay in their homes that

would make the bill stronger and that would help more Americans.

Specifically, I worked with Chairman CONYERS to ensure that section 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code would be amended to waive the mandatory requirement, under current law, that a debtor receive credit counseling prior to filing for bankruptcy relief. Under the amended language there is now a waiver that will apply where the debtor submits to the court a certification that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This is important because it affords the debtor the maximum relief without having to undergo a slow credit counseling process. This will help prevent the debtors credit situation from worsening, potentially spiraling out of control, and result in the eventual loss of his or her home.

The recent bill before Congress, Helping Homeowners Save Their Home Act, relaxes certain Bankruptcy requirements under Chapter 13 so that the debtor can modify the terms of the mortgage secured by his or her primary residence. This is an idea that I have long championed in the TARP legislation—the ability of debtors to modify their existing primary mortgages. The bill allows for a modification of the mortgage for a period of up to 40 years. Such modification cannot occur if the debtor fails to certify that it contacted the creditor before filing for bankruptcy. In this way, the language in the bill allows for the creditor to demonstrate that it undertook its “last clear” chance to work out the restructuring of the debt with its creditor before filing bankruptcy.

Importantly, the Act amends the bankruptcy code to provide that a debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for fees and costs incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a claim for debt secured by the debtor's principal residence.

Lastly, I worked to get language in the Helping Home Owners Save Their Homes Act that would allow the debtors and creditors to negotiate before a declaration of bankruptcy is made. I made sure that the bill addressed present situations at the time of enactment where homeowners are in the process of mortgage foreclosure. This was done with a view toward consistency predictability and a hope that things will improve.

RULES COMMITTEE

Over the past two years, debtors and average homeowners found themselves in the midst of a home mortgage foreclosure crisis of unprecedented levels. Many of the mortgage foreclosures were the result of subprime lending practices.

I have worked with my colleagues to strengthen the housing market and the economy, expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure, and strengthen consumer protections against risky loans in the future. Unfortunately, problems in the subprime mortgage markets have helped push the housing market into its worst slump in 16 years.

Before the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to the Helping Americans Save Their Homes Act that would prevent homeowners and debtors, who were facing mortgage foreclosure as a result of the unscrupulous and unchecked lending of predatory lenders and financial institutions, from having their

mortgage foreclosure count against them in the determination of their credit score. It is an equitable result given that the debtors ultimately faced mortgage foreclosure because of the bad practices of the lender.

Simply put, my amendment would prevent homeowners who have declared mortgage foreclosure as a result of subprime mortgage lending and mortgages from having the foreclosure count against the debtor/homeowner in the determination of the debtor/homeowner's credit score.

Specifically, my amendment language was the following:

SEC. 205. FORBEARANCE IN CREATION OF CREDIT SCORE.

(a) IN GENERAL—Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘(h) FORECLOSURE ON SUBPRIME NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR CREDIT SCORES—

‘(1) IN GENERAL—A foreclosure on a subprime mortgage of a consumer may not be taken into account by any person in preparing or calculating the credit score (as defined in subsection (f)(2)) for, or with respect to, the consumer.

‘(2) SUBPRIME DEFINED—The term ‘subprime mortgage’ means any consumer credit transaction secured by the principal dwelling of the consumer that bears or otherwise meets the terms and characteristics for such a transaction that the Board has defined as a subprime mortgage.’

(b) REGULATIONS—The Board shall prescribe regulations defining a subprime mortgage for purposes of the amendment made by subsection (a) before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect at the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply without regard to the date of the foreclosure.

The homeowners should not be required to pay for the bad acts of the lenders. It would take years for a homeowner to recover from a mortgage foreclosure. My amendment would have strengthened this already much needed and well thought out bill.

I intend to offer a bill later this Congress to address this issue. I am delighted however that the Judiciary Committee has expressed their willingness to incorporate my language in the Conference language for this bill. Without a doubt, this issue is important to me and it is critical to Americans who are facing mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy.

The HOPE for Homeowners (H4H) program was created by Congress to help those at risk of default and foreclosure refinance into more affordable, sustainable loans. H4H is an additional mortgage option designed to keep borrowers in their homes.

The program is effective from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

There are four ways that a distressed homeowner could pursue participation in the HOPE for Homeowners program:

1. Homeowners may contact their existing lender and/or a new lender to discuss how to qualify and their eligibility for this program.

2. Servicers working with troubled homeowners may determine that the best solution for avoiding foreclosure is to refinance the homeowner into a HOPE for Homeowners loan.

3. Originating lenders who are looking for ways to refinance potential customers out from

under their high-cost loans and/or who are willing to work with servicers to assist distressed homeowners.

4. Counselors who are working with troubled homeowners and their lenders to reach a mutually agreeable solution for avoiding foreclosure.

It is envisioned that the primary way homeowners will initially participate in this program is through the servicing lender on their existing mortgage. Servicers that do not have an underwriting component to their mortgage operations will partner with an FHA-approved lender that does.

Because I am committed to helping Americans obtain homes and remain in their homes, I support the HOPE for Homeowners Program. Indeed, I feel personally vindicated that Congress has set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure, an issue that I have long championed in the 110th Congress.

HOUSING, FORECLOSURES, & TEXAS

Texas ranks 17th in foreclosures. Texas would have fared far worse but for the fact that homeowners enjoy strong constitutional protections under the state's home-equity lending law. These consumer protections include a 3 percent cap on lender's fees, 80 percent loan-to-value ratio (compared to many other states that allow borrowers to obtain 125 percent of their home's value), and mandatory judicial sign-off on any foreclosure proceeding involving a defaulted home-equity loan.

Still, in the last month, in Texas alone there have been 30,720 foreclosures and sadly 15,839 bankruptcies. Much of this has to do with a lack of understanding about finance—especially personal finance.

Last year, American's Personal income decreased \$20.7 billion, or 0.2 percent, and disposable personal income (DPI) decreased \$11.8 billion, or 0.1 percent, in November, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) decreased \$56.1 billion, or 0.6 percent. In India, household savings are about 23 percent of their GDP.

Even though the rate of increase has showed some slowing, uncertainties remain. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are high and could still beat last year's numbers.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally. New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent.

One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth raising the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19% from their peak in 2006 and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that ad-

versely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

Recently, the Congress set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure prevention. I have long championed that money be a set aside to address this very important issue. I believe in homeownership and will do all within my power to ensure that Americans remain in their houses.

BANKRUPTCY

We have come full circle in our discussion today. The bill before us today is on bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosures.

I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP that was voted upon this week has included language that would give \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure. I am continuing to engage in the dialogue with Leadership to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures. Again, I feel a sense of vindication on this point, because this bill, H.R. 1106 addresses this point

CREDIT CRUNCH

A record amount of commercial real estate loans coming due in Texas and nationwide the next three years are at risk of not being renewed or refinanced, which could have dire consequences, industry leaders warn. Texas has approximately \$27 billion in commercial loans coming up for refinancing through 2011, ranking among the top five states, based on data provided by research firms Foresight Analytics LLC and Trepp LLC. Nationally, Foresight Analytics estimates that \$530 billion of commercial debt will mature through 2011. Dallas-Fort Worth has nearly \$9 billion in commercial debt maturing in that time frame.

Most of Texas' \$27 billion in loans maturing through 2011—\$18 billion—is held by financial institutions. Texas also has \$9 billion in commercial mortgage-backed securities, the third-largest amount after California and New York, according to Trepp.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the bills that the Congress has worked on since November 2008 will do yeoman's work helping America get back on the right track with respect to the economy and the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Ms. FUDGE. I want to thank my colleague who is obviously an outstanding lawyer and leader for participating in this hour.

Mr. Speaker, certainly, as you have listened to my colleagues this evening, helping the economy recover is foremost in all of our minds. At this time in our Nation's history, it is important that Congress ensure that Americans have jobs to support themselves and their families, as well as homes to raise these families in. To fix the economy, we must address the foreclosure crisis.

Foreclosures affect all races and incomes. It doesn't just stop in the poor

cities, it affects every community in every State. However, the effects on the black community are especially pronounced because of the lower level of homeownership. For many black families, home equity is the main source of wealth because most have lower incomes, little to no savings or investments, and no life insurance policies.

The decline of the housing market is at the center of our economic crisis. Home prices have dropped 18 percent in the last quarter of 2008. It is estimated that each foreclosed home reduces surrounding property values by as much as 9 percent, causing increased concern for even those who are not directly affected by the housing crisis. Nearly 6 million homes are facing foreclosure, and nearly one in five homeowners owes more than their home is worth, and many cannot afford to refinance.

The foreclosure crisis affects every sector of the population, and nearly every person in this Nation. Cities across the Nation are experiencing a crisis that imperils communities and cripples the economy. In my district, the Center For Responsible Lending projected 5,500 foreclosures in 2009—just in the 11th District—and 18,500 foreclosures over the next 4 years. Within the State of Ohio the projection is very grim: 87,500 foreclosures in 2009. In Cuyahoga County, 13,858 were foreclosed in 2008. Cleveland is one of the Nation's big cities in the most need due to its large population of poor families. The city has set aside nearly \$11 million to handle some 10,000 homes that have been abandoned primarily due to foreclosure. Much of that money, about \$7.5 million, goes to demolition, while the remainder takes care of vacant lots, boarding up windows, picking up trash, and mowing lawns. This money could be used to hire more police officers and to keep more teachers. But because of the risk that goes with abandoned neighborhoods, money needs to go towards foreclosed properties.

As we see far too often, for communities with foreclosed homes, it is a short road from nuisance to blight to crime. Blight affects a city's morale and slows economic growth and development. Abandoned homes also become harbors for criminal activity.

Typically, it is our inner cities that bear the brunt of vacant homes and community blight. But now it can be seen in each and every community, in every development and in every neighborhood. Even the affluent suburbs face the same problems. The suburb of Shaker Heights spent nearly \$1 million on foreclosed properties. The city of Euclid had to tear down 18 homes, and Cleveland Heights spent a great deal of money on maintenance on over 250 properties.

I spoke recently with Ms. Arnetta Parker, a long-time resident of Richmond Heights, Ohio, a nice, upper-middle-class suburb. She and her husband have resided in the area for over 35 years and are currently doing fine.

However, their community is struggling greatly. Her subdivision has about 80 homes, and on her street alone, four of those homes are vacant. She recalled one of the first times she saw a family be required to move out of their home and how much it hurt her to see a hardworking couple lose their home. The displaced couple had two kids, a teenage son who was very involved in sports and a very young girl. They were uprooted from what was familiar to them, from their schools, their friends and community. They became a part of the crisis.

Just this month, foreclosures.com, a Website that looks at the rise of foreclosures in the United States, found an increase in foreclosures of over 60 percent from January to February. The organization's president, Alexis McGee, opined if foreclosures continue unabated, then the United States could see 1.2 million homes back in lenders' hands by the end of this year.

The Center For Responsible Lending estimates there are 6,600 new foreclosures every day, and that equates to one foreclosure by one family that loses their home every 13 seconds.

This Nation cannot sustain a system in which mortgage servicers prefer foreclosure over mortgage modifications. The Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan creates incentives for lenders to modify mortgages by bringing mortgages more in line with the value of the home and should reduce the number of home foreclosures. It also encourages servicers to modify mortgages for at-risk homeowners before they are delinquent.

Recent reports show that homeowners are not the only ones suffering in this crisis. Renters are also becoming victims as their landlords lose property to foreclosure. Usually renters are not aware of the foreclosure proceedings. Once the lender has foreclosed, they often provide little notice to tenants before demanding that the tenants vacate the property. Forced from the property, renters may lose their security deposit and everything else they have.

To help insure that similar crises are averted in the future, regulations must be developed that combat mortgage fraud and predatory lending practices. In general, predatory lending covers those practices that are deemed deceptive or fraudulent, that manipulate borrowers through aggressive sales tactics, or that unfairly seize on the borrower's lack of understanding about loan terms.

Predatory lending strips borrowers of home equity, increases the homeowner's chances of foreclosure, and destabilizes communities. Vacant properties invite criminal activities and affect neighboring property values.

□ 2045

The most common predatory lending tactics include excessive fees and abusive prepayment penalties. For example, borrowers with high-interest loans

have a strong incentive to refinance as soon as their credit improves. However, as the Center for Responsible Lending estimates, up to 80 percent of all subprime mortgages carry a prepayment penalty. Homeowners become trapped by such provisions, leaving them unable to make cost-effective decisions.

Moreover, studies have shown that predatory lenders often target vulnerable groups, including minority groups, females, elderly, and low-income borrowers. The evidence is clear by the concentration of predatory loans in low-income and minority neighborhoods. Congress and President Obama have both designed legislation to curve the downward spiral in foreclosures. These plans are coordinated among major government and regulatory agencies to bring targeted relief to the American housing market and to homeowners.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, H.R. 1106, is designed to stabilize the housing market by reducing foreclosures, and to help responsible, hardworking Americans who are losing their homes during this economic downturn. It could reduce foreclosures by 20 percent.

The bill ensures that those who seek recourse via chapter 13 can do so through a uniform process. Several important points about the bill are that it protects lenders from lawsuits, it fixes the Federal Housing Administration's HOPE for Homeowners Program by lowering the fees paid by borrowers and lenders, and by providing \$1,000 payments to servicers for each successful refinance of existing loans. It reduces current fees that have discouraged lenders from voluntarily participating. As a last resort, it allows bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of loans for families with existing mortgages, just as investors in vacation homes, real estate speculators, and corporations have been able to do for years. And it helps veterans, and others, to avoid foreclosure by allowing the Department of Veteran Affairs, the FHA, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to guarantee or ensure mortgage loans modified either out of court or in a bankruptcy case.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing the CBC to have a Special Order this evening. It is my pleasure to have anchored those hours.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH, AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for yielding, and I thank you for this opportunity and the kindness to be able to address this body on the issue of taxes. We're very excited to be able to have this opportunity.

I'm joined this evening by two wonderful colleagues, Mrs. Foxx of North Carolina, and also Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, who have indicated, also, willingness to speak to this important topic.

We see that there is a tremendous change that is about to occur in our Nation. And I just want to begin by talking about the real problem that we have at hand, and that's the issue of certainty versus uncertainty in our economy.

There are many people right now who have been unwilling to make decisions about investing in the economy, spending money, buying something, should they save money, should they spend it, can they get a job? And the worry has been "certainty." What's going to happen next? They feel like one shoe has dropped, when will the other shoe drop? What's it going to be? What's going to happen? People are just nervous.

I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, I was back in my district this weekend, I'm sure you were, too, and people that I saw are very worried about what's coming down the horizon because they just saw, in the last 55, 60 days, they saw our Congress spend \$1 trillion dollars and more, once you count the debt service on the stimulus bill. They're very nervous when they see that level of spending. They've never heard of that before. It's historic, it's never happened before.

They saw that, and then right after that they saw us take up the appropriations bill for the rest of the year which spends for the Federal Government, and it's \$410 billion. And then they heard it had 9,000 earmarks contained in the bill. And they thought, what in the world is going on? I thought this was an emergency. I thought this was a time when we're supposed to be careful with our money. And the American people are socking away money as much as they can.

It was just only about a year or so ago that we saw that the savings rate in the United States was minus 1 percent. During the Great Depression, the savings rate was minus 1.5. What was the savings rate in January? It was plus 5 percent. It's plus 5 percent because the American people have figured out, we're in trouble. And so they are battening down the hatches and they're doing everything they can to make sure their ship is in order, their house is in order so they at least have a job and so that they can at least take care of their bills.

What has Congress' response been? It has been to spend \$1 trillion, and then \$410 billion—plus 9,000 earmarks contained in that bill—and sandwiched in between was something called a Fiscal Responsibility Summit. Now, people are scratching their heads saying, you people call yourselves fiscally responsible when you've just spent that kind of money, let alone what's happened with the Federal Reserve and all the money that the Federal Reserve has committed?

The reason why I'm bringing that up, Mr. Speaker, is because today marks a very important anniversary. I know Mr. GARRETT remembers this anniversary. It was 1 year ago today that for the very first time in the history of our country the Federal Reserve opened the discount window to a private investment bank called Bear Stearns. We all remember that, it was \$29 billion. Just preceding that, this body had spent the outrageous sum of \$168 billion in a stimulus package that was supposed to rescue our economy from diving into the doldrums. So what did our body do? We spent \$168 billion, and we got into helicopters and we dropped checks all across the United States and said, "Have a good time. Spend money so that our economy doesn't tank." Our economy tanked because people said you can't spend money like that and think that your house is going to be in order. So people got nervous, they got very worried.

Then they saw us bail out a private investment bank at \$29 billion. Well, it wasn't long after that that we heard that Freddie and Fannie, the secondary home loan mortgage companies, they were in bankruptcy. We had to bail them out. So the Federal taxpayer had to cough up \$200 billion to bail out Freddie and Fannie. This really scared people.

At the same time, the Federal Government took \$400 billion and infused that money into the Federal Home Loan Association. People thought, my stars, what's about to happen? Well, they didn't even catch a breath, and the Treasury Secretary said, now we need \$700 billion; we've got to have \$700 billion for the TARP program, which was to have money to be able to buy troubled assets, the mortgage security bailout.

And we were told we had to get this done within a week or the whole economy was going to fail. Well, we had that tussle, we had that struggle. And you remember, Mr. Speaker, that last September we were all here in this Chamber. We came in, the galleries were filled with people, the press was up in the press box; what were we going to do? We were going to pass this historic level of spending, \$700 billion, and the vote failed. It was a Monday. No one could believe it. So there was regrouping going on; took another vote, the vote passed. Only this time it was wrapped in another \$110 billion worth of very expensive gift wrap called "vote buying." And so that bill was passed. Pretty soon, the year went by, and between this body and the Federal Reserve trillions of dollars flew through the door.

People were looking for hope and change; I was looking for hope and change. And when January 20 came and the Obama administration was sworn in, what did we see? We saw over \$1 trillion worth of spending out of the gate. And what did it do? Has it calmed the waters? Has it brought us certainty? Are you kidding? We saw GDP

tank. We saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average go to such historic lows, no one could believe it. We were looking at 6000 on the Dow Jones. We saw job losses spike through the charts, unbelievable levels of job losses. Where is the certainty?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm here to say, there is a certainty that we can tell the American people tonight, and that certainty is that their taxes are just about to have the roof blown off. They're going to have the roof blown off. And it was here in this body, not too long ago, when President Obama stood right here and he told the American people in that camera right up there, he said, "I will not raise taxes on 95 percent of the American people. You can take that to the bank." And in the course of his remarks, he said that he is going to pass the cap and trade tax. That's the new tax on energy, which 100 percent of Americans are going to be spending.

That's what we want to talk about tonight, Mr. Speaker. We have to talk about this tonight. We've been talking about all the spending; now it's time to talk about the taxing. And it's really a shame because the time to have been talking about taxing is when we were talking about spending.

We didn't even have a paragraph of conversation on this floor about how we're going to pay for all this spending. Congress just had a sugar high. It's as though every Member of Congress just ingested a 24 pack of Mountain Dew and said, "Hallelujah. I'm on a sugar high. We're going to spend money and we're going to rev this economy up." Well, I'm telling you, if you had a 24 pack of Mountain Dew, you would not only be on a sugar high, you would be zooming, but you would crash. And that's about what we are going to be seeing. That crash is called taxes, Mr. Speaker. And the American people haven't seen anything yet when they open up their tax bills.

At this point, I would like to yield to the gentlelady from North Carolina to take it from there. And we're going to go in a game of tennis here tonight. We're going to volley back and forth and we will have a great discussion on taxes.

I yield to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx).

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Minnesota. It's a little hard to follow her. She is so energized and so enthusiastic. The rest of us here tonight are that way, too, but we don't have the same presence she has, but we are so fortunate to have her in the Republican Caucus.

I want to add to what she is saying, and then yield in a couple of minutes to our colleague from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), who has a lot to say about this subject tonight.

I want to point out that our colleague from Minnesota has set the stage for what we're going to talk about tonight, and there are lots of things to try to remember. She has

gone over a whole list of all of the spending that was done last year, what has been proposed so far this year. But I want to help people just keep in mind three simple concepts about what has been happening in this Congress so far.

The budget, which the Democrats support, President Obama's budget, spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. Those are three simple concepts for us to keep in mind. We can talk a lot about bailouts, stimulus, budget, omnibus budget—there are many, many terms. I know the American people have difficulty keeping up with them because I have difficulty keeping up with them. It's like you're in a whirlwind here with so many things happening.

The Democrats are living what the Chief of Staff of the President and the former head of the conference here said. He said, "Let's never let a crisis go to waste." He wanted, with a Democrat-controlled Congress and a Democrat in the White House—talk about being on a sugar high, that is really a sugar high because this is the first time in over 8 years that they have had that situation. And I think it's important that we point that out because there are still many people in this country who don't realize that the Democrats are in charge, they've been in charge. In fact, our economy started tanking when the Democrats took over the Congress in 2007. I think I have a chart to show that; but again, I think it's really, really important to talk about that.

I want to say that our colleagues who were speaking just before we were made a comment about how it's Congress' job to assure jobs for Americans. Well, the budget they support and the policies that they have followed thus far have done just the opposite. They've done everything they can to kill jobs in this country. And let me point it out.

The Democrats took control of the Congress in January of 2007. That's not something they like to be reminded of. They want to say that all of the economic problems that we have in this country are the result of George Bush's presidency. However, we had 55 straight months of job growth up until January of 2007; that's when the Democrats took control.

And look what started happening? This is the chart. The graph is a little bit tough to read, but this is the loss of jobs going up. We probably should have had it going down to make it be a little more specific on what we're talking about. But as they said, they don't want to let a crisis go to waste, but they don't want to accept the responsibility for what their getting in control of Congress did.

For 6 years, the first 6 years of President Bush's administration, the Republicans were in control. Did they do all the things they should have done? Did they do everything right? No. They absolutely did not. I was here for 2 of those years, and colleagues of mine did

our best to cut spending. And we actually did cut spending that cycle, but we never got any credit for it because of the news that came out about the elections and that kind of thing.

□ 2100

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. If the gentlewoman from Minnesota would yield.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I yield to the gentleman.

Ms. FOXX. This is my colleague from New Jersey, Scott Garrett.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I just want to touch on that one point as far as the perception of what the Democrats did and what the Republicans did. And I do this not for any partisan reasons because I do honestly believe that all of us here tonight actually believe, as the majority of the American public believes, that we are in a difficult situation; that people are hurting; that jobs are being lost, as your chart so adequately demonstrates there; and we don't need to be partisan about it, but we do need to set the record straight. And I will tell you this little story.

I have served here for 6 years now, and I have served on the Budget Committee. And I was here when the Republicans were in charge. And I, like you, was frustrated with the fact that many times during our tenure in office when Republicans controlled the House we were spending too much money. You and I voted against a lot of those expenditures, but as a party we were. And that's why in 2006 the American voters voted with their wallets, if you will, and said let's throw them out and let's put in a party that is campaigning on a platform of fiscal responsibility. And the reason I point out that I serve on the Budget Committee was because for 4 years when they were in the minority, they were saying a lot of the things that you and I agreed with and that you and I were saying, that we were spending too much money and were going in the wrong direction. So I perhaps naively hoped that in 2006 when they took the majority, they were going to put in practice much of what they said about the budget on their campaign trail in their rhetoric. But, you know, they didn't. They don't do it in 2006, and they didn't do it now in the 2008 election as well. And that's where we are right now.

However, I will credit them with being able to say that they have inherited the problems, but, of course, the facts don't speak to that as well. You're looking at a chart right there that says "jobs lost since the start of the Democrat majority," and even without my glasses on, I can see at the bottom of the XY-axis, it is January of 2007, and that is the starting point, and then the line goes off the charts. All you need is a little rocket on engine of how to succeed in business without really trying and just shoot up through the end over there, if you're familiar with that movie, and you would see that during their tenure, you lost the

jobs. But it's not only the fact that they didn't inherit the lost jobs because they were in control of the House and Senate. I don't have a little easel here, but let me just share this chart. I don't know whether you have one up there by you as well.

The other mantra that they will say in the media, and I've been on TV shows and radio shows, and the anchors will say, well, didn't the Democrats inherit all of this spending? Not exactly, not when you really look down to it. Let me give you about five quick points that I can run through here. This too is going back to the bottom of your XY-axis, January of 2007, when HARRY REID was in charge over in the Senate and Speaker PELOSI was in charge here as Speaker of the House. Let's see what has occurred from January, 2007, to where we are now, and this is March. I will just run through a few quick numbers.

The omnibus, most recent, fiscal year 2009 omnibus, \$410 billion. That didn't occur under Republican control. That occurred under Democrat control, spending. Stimulus 2, \$187 billion, again occurred under Democrat control and leadership. Auto bailout, of course, that too, \$14 billion, and that occurred again during Democrat control of the House and Senate. TARP, something that I have been on the floor hours upon hours talking and railing against how we're spending so much money there. First it was \$350 billion at the end of last year, and then they added another \$350 billion on that. People say we're bailing out Wall Street. We're just finding out now where some of that money is going. Apparently it's going to AIG executives, who made some of these great decisions that brought that company down to where it is today, in bonuses and what have you. So there's \$700 billion in TARP under Democrat control. The next one, pre-TARP loans, \$300 billion. And, finally, a stimulus bill, stimulus 1, that was July of last year, if I'm not mistaken, \$152 billion.

So you add them up, and I'm not going to do that in my head, but you have 400, 187, 14, 700, 300, \$152 billion. This all occurred during the time that Speaker PELOSI and HARRY REID were running things on the floor. They could have stopped, and it's easier in the Senate than here, but they could have stopped each and every one of these. They could have put any restrictions on each and every one of these. And maybe the gentlewoman from Minnesota would like to chime in on this one, and that is to talk about how they didn't put any restrictions on these points. They basically said here's \$700 billion, out the window, any way you want to spend it.

Ms. FOXX. And is it your memory also that President Obama, then Senator Obama, came back here off the campaign trail and put his blessing on the TARP bailout? It was my understanding that the Congress was controlled by the Democrats and that

President Obama, then Senator Obama, said, "I support it too." Is that your memory?

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. It's absolutely my memory. And the reason I remember it is because there were a few of us in the House who were raising our hand at that time and saying what are we spending \$700 billion on? The idea was the so-called purchase of toxic assets, which never did occur, and we said shouldn't there, A, be other alternatives considered; B, another implementation; and, C, shouldn't there be restrictions or strings, if you will, attached to some of this? All of that was dismissed and put aside. But you're absolutely correct. Senator Obama at that time supported it, as did the leadership of this House. Not only did they support it in this House, they pushed it through so quickly that none of us really had an opportunity. We never had any markup on this bill.

That's the other little frustrating thing about all of this, and the American taxpayer must be so frustrated with how, quote, "their government," and it is their government, works, how Washington works. We spend the money today, and then a day or a week or a month from then, we'll come back and say we are going to have a hearing on this and see exactly what we spent the money on. We spent \$350 billion, then \$700 billion without so much as a markup on it, which is, for folks who don't know, the way the bill goes through and you can say I want to put this in or take that out. Without so much as a markup, we spend this \$700 billion; then Congress can come back and says let's take a look at this. We saw that on TARP 1. We saw that on TARP 2. In essence, you could say we did that on the stimulus as well. We rushed right through how many pages? I'm forgetting.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It was 1,073 pages on the stimulus, which not one Member of Congress read. It wasn't released to the public until after midnight. I kept my staff here until 9 o'clock at night hoping we could have a chance to read this bill. I released them at 9. It didn't come on-line until after midnight. And had the Members of Congress stayed up all night and had we not taken one break and just read it, we would have had 23 seconds per page to read that. Not one person could read it.

I think there is a reason for it. We know why. There was no stimulus contained in the stimulus bill, nothing that would help small businesses. We even had essentially an admission of that this morning from President Obama because President Obama said now he has to have a plan for small business. There wasn't much of anything to speak of in the stimulus bill or in his budget bill for the rest of the year; so now he wants to have a new small business bill that is quite a bit of money. But what does it do? It funds the SBA, government. It funds more government. It has no nothing to do with tax reductions for small business.

You talk to any businessman. I'm a small businessman with my husband. We started a business from scratch, and I'll tell you what would help: Lower the tax rate for businesses. American businesses pay the second highest tax rate in the world, 34 percent. Imagine. You want to have certainty in the marketplace? Bring the corporate tax rate from 34 percent down to 9 percent.

The world right now is nervous. We think we're nervous in the United States. The world doesn't know where to invest. How do we know that the world is nervous? This weekend, and this is humorous, you have the specter of the Chinese communists lecturing the Obama administration, could you please stop spending so much money, President Obama? You're making me nervous. I'm worried that I am going to lose my Chinese debt pretty soon if you don't get a grip on your spending. Then you have European socialists saying to the Obama administration, gee, we don't want to spend all the money that you want us to spend.

Isn't it interesting that you have an American President now that's making the world nervous? We were all told that the President was going to bring the world together. We were going to have unity. All of our allies were going to be on board. Our allies are running like mice off a sinking ship saying we don't want any part of this out-of-control spending because our allies have been down that road themselves.

I'll tell you if this out-of-control spending would have worked, Japan would have been looking great for 10 years rather than this "lost decade." Europe would be the beacon, the envy of the world for investment. Instead, these are economies in shambles, and I think that's what the American people are worried about.

And I yield back to the gentleman from New Jersey. I think they're worried because they know. The American people get it that they're going to have to pay the bill.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. The American people get it, although we did that hear from our President here a couple of weeks ago. He said, "I get it." Unfortunately, I don't think he does. I think what he does get is the idea of a new movement he is leading, and that is a movement of redistribution of the wealth in this country, and basically he's doing it by burdening the responsible taxpayer, the responsible family, the responsible American, and putting it on the irresponsible ones. And it's sort of funny, and maybe "funny" isn't right word for this, but if you look at the budget documents that came out, the title of it is "An Era of Responsibility." This is anything but an era of responsibility.

And I will close with this: Just as I was hopeful in 2006 and 2007 for the Democrat leadership that they would be responsible in this area, I honestly was hopeful that when President Obama became the President that he

would fulfill his pledge that he would give the American public and all of us in Congress the opportunity to have 4 or 5 days actually to have any bill up on the Web site so they could see it and read it and comment on it otherwise. And you pointed out so accurately that in this case with an 1,100-page bill, it went through and no one saw it.

Ms. FOXX. I wanted to say some of the same things. I think that you and I and conservatives here in Congress really were hopeful that when the Democrats took control of Congress, when President Obama was elected, that they would keep their promises.

I agree with you. We wanted change. We wanted to cut spending. We wanted an era of different government. But all we have dealt with has been a series of broken promises. One promise after another.

You highlighted the issue of not having 5 days to read the bill. I think that that's an extremely important thing. The American people take our job seriously even if some of our colleagues don't take their job seriously, but they expect us to be here to vote and they expect us to read the bills. I am getting more and more questions from people, have you read the bills? I am being much more diligent about reading bills these days because of that. But all we have gotten are broken promises from the President and from the Democrats who are in charge. And I think that's really a sad situation.

Earmarks, for example, as our colleague from Minnesota pointed out, the bill that was passed the other day, the omnibus bill that was passed the other day, had 8,500 earmarks in it. Now, it may be that some of those are worthwhile projects, but we had a promise from our President that he would not sign any bill with any earmarks in it. He would go through line item by line item and take those out. That is another promise that's gone by the wayside. It's just not going to happen.

I think what we are seeing is the comment that he made without his teleprompter that he does believe in wealth transfer. I think we know now why he always wants a teleprompter in front of him because when allowed to speak off the cuff sometimes he says some things that really reveal what it is. The comment about "never let a crisis go to waste," of course, he didn't say that, his Chief of Staff said it. But the wealth transfer I think is something that the American people are beginning to understand.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You had mentioned that you felt that the President maybe was revealing his true colors in an off-the-cuff remark, but I have in front of me a copy of the President's budget. This is in black and white and anyone can read it. And this is page 5, "Inheriting a Legacy of Mismatched Priorities." I think the President is pretty clear about wealth transfer. He's been very clear. He's got it down in black and white. And I will quote from it. It says this: "While middle class families

have been playing by the rules living up to their responsibilities as neighbors and citizens, those at the commanding heights of our economy have not.”

□ 2115

He is saying that people, the top end, have not been playing by the rules. Now, this is a canard that gets repeated over and over and over again, saying that people have not been paying their taxes, somehow it's been unfair and they have skimmed.

But as the gentleman from New Jersey knows, and that as our colleague who has joined us, Dr. BROUN, knows, I know the gentelady from North Carolina is aware of this, the top 1 percent of income earners in the United States pay 40 percent of all the taxes in the United States.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Wait a minute, would you please repeat that for the people who are watching tonight so that they understand very clearly what you just said? Say it slow for us down south.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I know these Minnesota accents are a little tough to get through, but I also want to mention, just for point of reference, I am a Federal tax attorney. That's my background. That's what I do. Taxes are us.

But the top 1 percent of income earners pay 40 percent of all the taxes. The top 5 percent of income earners in the United States pay 60 percent of all taxes. The top 10 percent of all income earners pay 80 percent of all taxes.

Today in the United States, 40 percent of all Americans pay no taxes. And under President Obama's plan, 50 percent of all Americans will pay no taxes.

This weekend I was up in the northern part of my district, probably no one in this group made more than \$50,000 a year. All the people I spoke to were very upset with President Obama's plan. They were upset because they believe in tax fairness. They believe that every American should pay something, no matter what their income is, everybody should have something in on the deal.

Why? We all benefit from national defense. We all benefit from roads. We all benefit from corrections. All of us benefit. All of us should be paying it.

I will yield to our counterpart from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentelady.

I just came from a meeting where I heard some very interesting information about this taxing, this cap and tax, as we are calling it. The Democrats call it cap and trade.

But there is a video called "Apocalypse? No!" This was Christopher Lord, Christopher Monckton, one of the greatest outspoken people in this world, about how the global warming is just totally a farce, and he was talking about how it was going to hurt the poorest of people, not only in the United States but in the world. He was

begging for us, not as a Congress, as a government, for us to not put this cap and tax policy in place, because what it's going to do is it's going to put people out of work, it's going to lock them into a welfare state, which is going to hurt everybody's pocketbook long term. It's going to hurt small business, it's going to hurt the economy of not only the United States, but the world.

And he was begging us not to pass a cap and tax policy here in the United States and was saying that we in America need to do the right things. He was showing us graphs, and the lies, actually, that are being put out by a NASA scientist by the name of Mr. Hanson and others who are promoting this, now they talk about climate change.

But Lord was saying in the last 7 years we have actually had global cooling, global cooling. So they have stopped talking about global warming because we have had global cooling for the last 7 years. And this was in the normal variability of climate going up and down over the years.

And he was pointing out that sun spots, sun activity actually has more to do with the temperature than the CO₂ that has been emitted.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Yes, that's the solar flares, that's true.

As a matter of fact, in President Obama's budget, which he has already submitted, and which we are going to be taking up, and we are going to be voting on with appropriations, he has already included, as a baseline part of his budget, remember, his budget is historic.

It's so huge, the trillions of dollars are so huge we can't even get our arms around it, 646 billion in new taxes for the energy tax. I am sure that the gentleman and his constituents from Georgia, and I am sure that the gentelady from North Carolina and her constituents, and the gentleman from New Jersey and his constituents would be interested in knowing, well, what does that work out for me? What does that mean that I am going to owe?

Well, people in the Sixth District of Minnesota, we need heat. We don't have a choice in wintertime. We have to turn our furnace on. This is very, very large concern, and I hope we have time to discuss it before the Democrats ask us to vote on this bill.

Because we are looking at a good \$4,000 per household in increased costs right away to pay for energy. Energy touches every part of our life, and we have got a graph up here that talks about what President Obama and the Democrats' tax plan will do.

Gas prices are going to go up. We all remember how much fun it was last July to pay over \$4 a gallon and we thought we were quick on our way to \$6 a gallon, \$8 a gallon? Well, remember that? Welcome back to it. That's called cap and tax. Welcome back to now seeing your home heating fuel, or in the case of Georgia, going up 40 percent. Can you imagine if your constituents

get an electric bill that will be 40 percent higher than what it was before?

Remember also what happened at the grocery store last summer when gas prices went up. The food prices went up. Why? Energy is in everything we eat.

Also if you go to Wal-mart, if you go to Target to buy something to wear. Energy is a component, a basic building block of everything.

I know that the gentelady from North Carolina has a great graph on this.

Ms. FOXX. Well, there is a chart here that showed that in addition to the high rate we are going to be paying for the cap and tax that the President has in his budget bill, what I wanted to point out and wanted to ask the gentelady, it's my understanding again that the President promised that he was going to cut taxes for 95 percent of taxpayers; is that right?

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right. That's what he said to the American people.

Ms. FOXX. And yet he left out saying he is going to raise taxes, though, a lot more for 100 percent of the people by instituting cap and tax.

Again, they like to call it cap and trade, but it's going to be cap and tax. Because as you so eloquently pointed out, it's going to raise the cost of energy for everybody in this country. And these people, I think they are just playing God.

I think they think that we human beings are going to offset the action of the sun. They think they are God, and they are going to be playing that role.

But I wanted to point out something tonight that we haven't said that I think is very important to point out, and I think our colleague from New Jersey reminded me this is something we should be saying, we know, as Republicans, that Americans are hurting. We know lots of people in our districts who are suffering as a result of the actions and the policies that have been taken, particularly in the last couple of years, and we don't want that hurt to go on.

So Republicans have been offering alternatives. The Democrats are accusing us of being the Party of "No." You know, that's a cute little thing that they can try to hang around our necks.

But I saw something today in Roll Call, can't take the credit for it, wish I could. I love it the way cartoonists can sometimes put in just a couple of words what we are thinking about, but there is a cartoon that says the Party of "O" and showing a picture of a donkey.

Now, I like that. We are not the Party of "No" because we have presented alternatives. Last year we presented alternatives when it came to energy. We had an all-of-the-above energy plan. We have an alternative to the budget.

We had an alternative to the stimulus, but we are being accused of being the Party of "No," but I think calling

them the Party of "O" is the appropriate thing to do, because they don't want to take responsibility. It's all a sham.

I tell you, again, this place reminds me of the emperor's new clothes. You know, there is this feeling that there is something out there, and it's going to take people who are willing to say the truth to tell the American people. Those stories you heard, those promises you were made, not true.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I just want to inject, actually, this economic situation that we are in is not too tough to figure out. It's real doable. We have a plan for it, and it's pretty simple.

We have a very high rate of tax on investments. If we would take that tax off, it's called capital gains, and zero it out and shout out from the house tops, for 4 years we will have a zero capital gains. You invest, take your money off the sideline, put it into the marketplace, any profit you get back, it's yours, 100 percent.

If we would have a zero capital gain, and if we would take our corporate tax rate from 34 percent down to 9 percent, cut everyone's marginal tax rate by 5 percent, even President Obama wants to increase the death tax. We say kill the death tax. That's not a good idea to have Uncle Sam reach into somebody's coffin after they have died and take 45 percent of what they own.

And get rid of that alternative minimum tax. You do that, next quarter you have an increase in GDP and jobs. Next quarter you have the Dow Jones up. Next quarter, you are going to see unprecedented levels of growth and unprecedented levels of investment in the United States from the world markets. This is pretty easy to solve.

But the Obama administration has taken a completely different view. They have taken the view of the French Revolution, which is to tax, tax, tax and spend, spend, spend. And now they have even taken another cue from them, off with their heads.

Because in their budget proposal, by their own language, the evil are the top 1 percent of income earners. And that's who they want to whack off their heads.

But the Wall Street Journal even had a great article that said this. It said you could confiscate the wealth of everyone making \$75,000 or more, it still wouldn't be enough to pay for all the spending that President Barack Obama wants to spend.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And there was a whole bunch of points I wanted to raise on the things you said right then, but I will go with the whole bunch of them.

On the middle point with regard to taxation of capital gains and what have you, it may sound, at first blush, that when you say, well, we have to address the capital gains situation in this country, we are talking about the rich out there. But when you realize that as across the board, Americans are hurting generally pretty much across the

board. A lot of people who are hurting are senior citizens, retirees, people who rely upon their pensions, whether it's union pension or private pension or otherwise.

They are saving to pay for college, what have you, they are seeing those funds go down. What can we do to try to turn that around?

I can't guarantee that it would turn around by tomorrow, but, as you said, pretty darn soon if you can get the trillions of dollars, as people say, are sitting on the sidelines and to start investing it. How can you do that?

You can do that in a couple of ways. You hit on the main ones by lowering the capital gains tax. Honestly, right now, people aren't saying I don't have any capital gains in this marketplace. But if you gave that incentive to say get into the market today, you will be tax free or have a lower rate, people would get off the side and they would get into the market immediately.

The other point that I just wanted to touch on, the other point here, I will spend 2 minutes on it. In the spending plan we have had in the last several weeks, actually several months now, we have had hundreds of billion of dollars. And this is a side note, other people are criticizing the other side of the aisle, how much debt the Bush administration added during their 8 years in office, it was something like \$4.6 trillion in his 8 years in office.

Just in 3 years, it's doubling. But, basically, remember these numbers, President Bush was in office for 8 years, he saw it go up about 4.6. President Obama has been in office for less than 2 months or something like that, a month, and you will see the debt go up by \$5.6 trillion in a 3-year period of time. It is incredible.

Part of that money, where is that money going to, deals with what the gentlelady from North Carolina was talking about before. And that is to the whole foreclosure situation, home pricing, what have you, and just follow with me on this.

Their argument is this, foreclosures are happening out there right now. We agree. That is causing problems across the board and it is causing a devaluation of people's homes across the board. Therefore, everyone must pay higher taxes, increase spending to try to prevent the foreclosure problem.

Now, you raised some of the avenues of what we could do to address foreclosure, and I can go into them as well. But I just want to give some facts, and I can do it with a picture. It's not a cartoon like Ms. FOXX had over there, actually had a picture. This was actually in USA Today, and what does this chart show, yes, it's pretty neat. It shows county-by-county the number of foreclosure actions, defaults and notices on auctions and repossessions per 1,000. Basically, this is a chart to show you where the problems are in this country.

□ 2130

So as people look at this and they think to the rhetoric that we hear from

the other side that, Oh, there are a lot of foreclosures. Yes, the rate has gone up in specific areas out here in California, Arizona, and certainly down here in Florida and up in your neck of the woods as well. But the vast majority of the country, fortunately, is not seeing the systemic problems of more than 60, more than 40, or even more than 20.

What does that mean? That changes the whole nature of the discussion as to how we go about fixing the problem. If the problem is in certain areas, then you don't need a specific blanket approach across the board in order to do it. You don't need to raise taxes on small businesses or families in my neck of the woods or in your neck of the woods to solve the problem.

You need to target some of the relief. More importantly, you need some of the Republican solutions, and I'll yield back to you on this, as the RSC, the Republican Study Committee, has already come out with, addressing capital gains, corporate taxes, section 179, and the like, as far as encouraging businesses and individuals to get their entrepreneurial spirit going again.

Those sort of things will address this problem in a way that will affect everyone and improve lifting up the prices again and getting it back to the marketplace where we want it to be.

So I just wanted to bring that one little chart to try to set the record straight as to where the foreclosure problem is in this country, how it is actually impacting only a segment of the economy, and what we need to do is address this in a widespread approach, as I'm sure you're addressing and I'm sure the gentleman from Georgia would also like to address as well.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Isn't it interesting that we are getting a blanket approach to about everything there is. I know the gentleman from Georgia had brought up the whole cap and tax thing, where we have to have a global warming tax, an energy tax, and everybody has to pay.

I thought it was interesting. I was back in the district over the weekend and I heard President Obama on the radio admitting essentially and saying that he wants to have this new energy tax passed, but he does not want implementation to occur until after 2012.

The reason why, he said, is because the economy is in such rough shape right now, businesses and the economy couldn't take it. And that's a general admission that this new energy tax is going to tank our economy. As a matter of fact, I had a conversation over the weekend with some people who are experts in this area, and they said this new energy tax literally has the potential of reducing American's standard of living 30 percent. Thirty percent reduction in standard of living because of this energy tax.

The worst feature of all is that it gives all the power to Washington, D.C., and takes it away from the individuals by putting this right of taxation in the Federal government's

hands. It's almost like an invisible tax that is put into every aspect of our lives. How do we ever get rid of it? How do we deal with it?

We are losing freedom by the boatload. That's the difference between, I think, what the Republican agenda is and the Democrat agenda. We believe in the Constitution. We believe in the first amendment, religious freedom, freedom of speech. We believe in the second amendment, the right to hold and bear arms. We believe in these important values. We believe in bedrock values for our country.

Marriage should be between a man and a woman; life should be protected from the moment of conception. We believe in these values. We believe in securing our Nation. We believe in taking on the enemy and winning and not being ashamed to win.

One thing we don't believe in are open borders. We don't believe that we should have open borders. We believe that we should deal with the drug problem that is coming across, and the illegal alien problem. And we believe in low taxes. We don't believe in high taxes. And our country will change forever if this new energy tax comes in.

Did the gentleman from New Jersey have something you wanted to say, or can I go to the gentleman from Georgia?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you for yielding. In fact, you're exactly right. I think one point I really want to reiterate about this cap and tax or cap and trade issue—whose going to be hurt the worst? It's going to be the poor people in this country because groceries will go up, the cost of medications will go up so the elderly and the sick and the people who are on fixed incomes will have more to pay for their drugs.

It's going to hurt the poorest and the people who are in the least position to be able to take care of paying this higher tax. And this cap and tax is going to hurt everybody. But it's going to cost jobs. So that is going to make more people unemployed. Not only that, as the chart says, President Obama's budget spends too much, it taxes too much, it borrows too much. But it also hurts the poor too much.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It hurts the poor and it hurts every segment of the economy.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Absolutely.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Because, remember, how did this start? The housing problem. Mr. GARRETT started talking about that with foreclosures. This hurts the housing segment where you showed on the chart—Florida, Arizona, California, Nevada. They have all sorts of trouble. What does President Obama want to do? He wants to take away the home mortgage interest deduction that will hurt people who have already made 30 years' worth of plan on their finances. They took this interest deduction out, and now it's going to be taken away from them. That is going to hurt the housing industry.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Absolutely. Every single policy that we hear from this administration is going to hurt the most vulnerable in our economic system.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It's raising taxes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. In fact, he wants to cap charitable giving in this country, which means people won't give to the Salvation Army, people won't give to the Red Cross.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Imagine what it will do to churches. Imagine—already churches are being decimated. There's a foundation in Minnesota that does good work all across the world helping people to learn how to hear. They have had donors already this year pull \$300,000 worth of donations because they are going to lose that donation.

We're going to see donations dry up to some of the best organizations; ministries, churches, synagogues. This is serious, what's happening right now.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield, down in my part of the country, down the in southeast, we had a couple of little hurricanes a few years back. Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

If you look at the Federal response and compare it to the private response, where FEMA came in. People are still living in trailer houses. The neighborhoods are still empty, businesses are still boarded. But where the private sector, churches, synagogues, and other private entities went in to help these people in need, communities are back functioning. People are back in their homes, they're back in their businesses. The communities are back functioning.

What that shows is that the private sector works a whole lot better than how the bureaucracy works when it has all of its encumbrances. How it crawls slowly and how it cannot really respond.

Now, we have an administration that wants to take money away from those entities that work the best to help people. I just don't understand it.

We have, as Republicans, we have solutions. We are not just the Party of "No," as Ms. FOX was saying. We have presented solution after solution after solution.

Unfortunately, on the Wall Street bailout, President Bush and his Democratic Treasury Secretary, Hank Paulson, wouldn't consider our proposals. Our proposals were to cut the capital gains tax. That would even bring a lot of money offshore into America and free up a lot of capital so banks could start loaning to banks again. Banks could loan to people again. We had other solutions that President Bush and Hank Paulson wouldn't consider.

Since then we have had proposal after proposal that this House, the Senate leadership, as well as President Obama will not consider anything that we bring forward, which, actually, every single solution that we bring forward will help small businesses, it will create jobs.

Just in Georgia, the proposal that we had on the stimulus would have created twice the number of jobs—73,000 new jobs above what the Democrats say that they hope to save or create, using their own rules.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield, the jobs that are being created are new government jobs. They aren't new jobs in the private sector. They're government jobs that will somehow have to be continued and sustained.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. We would have created 73,000 more jobs in Georgia alone, under the Republican proposal, at half the cost. And we would not have borrowed any money at all. We would not have borrowed from our grandchildren like the stimulus bill or "non-stimulus" bill did.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield, the cost of these jobs in the stimulus were easily \$300,000 per jobs. Some of these jobs were \$650,000 per job that they created.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I was just going to raise that point. As I am standing here listening to your facts, I'm looking down at the floor at the well and I see President Obama's budget and the three points that are a takeaway from tonight: Spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

It spends too much of our current hard-earned dollars that everybody has to work so hard to earn; it taxes too much on the American family and the small business and the farmer; and it borrows too much from our children and our grandchildren because they will be the ones who actually pay for all this.

On the spending side of the equation, I know it's hard to get your hands around some of these numbers sometimes. You just did when you gave the number. First it was 2 million, then it was 3 million, then it was 4 million jobs that this administration said they were going to save. Whichever number it is, if you add it all up and divide it out, you're right, it comes to around \$300,000 per job that they're going to be spending to save.

But it's a heck of a lot of people in my district, and I'm sure even more down in Georgia, who would love to have a \$300,000 job, even if it is only for a week, a month, or half a year. That's the type of job, by the way, that the government's creating—short-term job. These are not careers.

Once this job screwing in light bulbs, which was one, or painting a fence, or another, once that job is done, that job is done.

So on the spending side of the equation, and you were alluding to this point before, what it means is we are getting to the point where around over a quarter of all the growth and wealth of this country—GDP, gross domestic product—all the growth and wealth, over 27 percent is going to be sucked right out of this country, across the borders, as my picture here of the

United States, and brought right here to Washington or this body and all the bureaucrats to spend however they want to.

Is that what Americans want—more than a quarter of the wealth of this country to be spent right here as opposed out of their own pockets?

And taxing too much. You hit the numbers before as far as the tax rates and how it's going to hit on the families and the budgets. And the last one on borrowing too much, the debt of this country, again, it's impossible to wrap your hands around these things, but the debt of this country, the public debt will reach 58.7 percent of the GDP this year, and eventually rise to two-thirds of GDP in a couple of years.

Last time it was like that was in early 1950s after the war, and what have you, and it's been on a steady decline ever since even then. Charts show it's a rocket ship going right back up again, all in the last 3 months and projected over the next 10 years.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield? The sad thing is our children and grandchildren are going to live at a lower standard. Their standard of living is going to be lower than ours today because they are going to be saddled with this huge debt.

You cannot borrow and spend your way into prosperity. In fact, our President has, if you all remember, came and told the Republican conference that he wasn't going to make the same mistake that Franklin Delano Roosevelt made when FDR got scared and quit spending. Our President said he was going to continue to spend. And it's just wrong. That policy during the Depression did not get us out of that Depression.

Warren Buffet just last week said he thinks we've been pushed off the edge and our economy is heading into a very severe depression or a very severe recession. And we may well be. I hope and pray that we aren't.

But, I know this. Every single thing that this administration and the leadership in this House and this Senate have proposed is going to hurt our economy. It's going to deepen the recession, it's going to prolong it, and may push us into a severe depression.

We keep hearing this is the worst economic time since the Great Depression. No, this is the worst time since Jimmy Carter and those failed policies. What our President has done is he's bought into that philosophy, that Keynesian economic policy, which is socialism. That's is exactly what he's bought into.

In fact, the way I have described it in some floor speeches is that we have a steamroller of socialism being shoved down the throats of the American people. It's going to strangle the American economy and it's going to slay the American people economically. And it's going to.

That steamroller of socialism is being driven by NANCY PELOSI and HARRY REID. We have got to stop it be-

cause it's going to hurt the poor people in this country. It's going to hurt the small businessmen and women in this country. It's going to hurt the most economically disadvantaged in this country.

We have policies that we are proposing that will actually help small businesses, that will create jobs. It will create paychecks instead of welfare checks. That's exactly what we are trying to promote, is giving people a paycheck instead of a welfare check.

□ 2145

Mrs. BACHMANN. We haven't even talked yet about socialized medicine. We talked a little bit about cap and tax. We haven't even talked about socialized medicine. Find me one model anywhere in the world where socialized medicine has delivered better care at a cheaper cost. You want to talk about tax increases, socialized medicine will break the bank in the United States, because now President Obama even voted for the SCHIP bill, which we all know will now for the first time swing the door wide open for illegal aliens. I know one thing, the people in my district are not interested in paying for the health care for illegal aliens that are coming across our border to be yet one more magnet to bring people in that should come here legally. That is a very real concern that we are addressing, and that is why I think people are so concerned right now about what they are seeing on the taxing climate.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And health care issues, and we have a doctor here with us tonight, is obviously something we are all concerned about. We know too many people who are in small businesses who just say, I just can't afford to buy insurance for my employees. We know too many individuals who are not working right now, and they say they cannot afford to pay for the health insurance costs, not because doctors charge too much, and we have a doctor right here, but just because of the nature and the system that we have in place.

The system we have right now, again, to get back to the facts, we do not have a free market health care system in this country; we have a government-regulated monopolized system in this country. But we do agree, the three of us here, I believe, without putting words in your mouth, that we do have a problem with health care affordability for a vast majority of Americans, and we do need to address that. But you do not address that, as is done in President Obama's budget, which spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much, by putting in placeholders of \$634 billion, which we do not have today, which goes to point three, borrows too much, that \$634 billion to pay for our health care today, which will basically come from our kids and our grandkids. We do not solve the affordability issue by simply spending more money and taxing more

money. You do it by ways that I know the good doctor has addressed on this floor before, by reforming the system, getting out inefficiencies in this system, providing for the competition on various levels under the system, to basically overhauling the system to make sure that health care is available to every American citizen, young and old alike. We have talked about that on the floor before. We need to do that. Spending, taxing, and borrowing is not going to fix the health care system.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Let me tell you about one government regulation that came in to the health care system when I was practicing medicine down in rural South Georgia to show you and just give you a picture of how much government regulation increases the cost for all of us.

I had a small automated lab with quality controls, because when I did tests I wanted to make sure that the tests were appropriate and that they gave good results so that I could treat my patients in the best way. Well, Congress passed a bill that was signed into law called the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act, CLIA. If a patient came in to see me and had a red, sore throat and I want to find out if they had a bacterial infection or a viral infection, I would do a CBC. It cost \$12 and I could do it in 5 minutes. CLIA shut down my lab. I had to send them to the hospital. It cost \$75 and took 2 to 3 hours. That is with just one government regulatory burden.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WELCH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and March 17 on account of attending a Vermont health care summit.

Mr. BOUSTANY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending funeral services for Charles Boustany, Sr.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and March 17 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, March 17 and 18 on account of family business.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and

extend their remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 23.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 23.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, March 17.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, March 17.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-531, commonly known as the "Bennett Freeze"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 338. An act to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held

in trust and to provide for the conduct of certain activities on the land; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KAY A. KING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 29 AND FEB. 3, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kay A. King	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00	(3)					438.00
	1/30	2/01	Argentina		698.00	(3)					698.00
	2/01	2/03	Panama		592.00	(3)					592.00
Committee total					1,728.00						1,728.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

KAY A. KING, Mar. 3, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JANICE MCKINNEY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 22, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Janice McKinney	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.00	(3)					699.00
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		384.00	(3)					384.00
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica			(3)					650.00
Committee total											1,733.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

JANICE MCKINNEY, Mar. 5, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, THOMAS W. ROSS, JR., HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Thomas W. Ross, Jr.	2/16	2/21	Peru		1,214.00		2,498.00				3,712.00
Committee total											3,712.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS W. ROSS, Jr., Mar. 2, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KUWAIT, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 4 AND FEB. 9, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Michael Sommers	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Kevin Smith	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Steve Stombres	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Rob Collins	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(3)					950.00
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KUWAIT, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 4 AND FEB. 9, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. John McHugh	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Tom Latham	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Michael Sommers	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Kevin Smith	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Steve Stombres	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Rob Collins	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Michael Sommers	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Kevin Smith	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Steve Stombres	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Rob Collins	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Michael Sommers	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Kevin Smith	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Steve Stombres	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Rob Collins	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Committee total					15,609.00						15,609.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Anthony Weiner	12/20	12/21	Kuwait		167.00						167.00
	12/23	12/24	Germany		321.00						321.00
Committee total					488.00						488.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, Jr., Chairman, Mar. 13, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

861. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (RIN: 0560-AH84) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

862. A letter from the Lieutenant General, US Army Director, Army National Guard, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

863. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report listing all repairs and maintenance performed on any covered Navy vessel in any shipyard outside the United States or Guam during the preceding fiscal year, pursuant to Section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

864. A letter from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's

final rule — Processing of Deposit Accounts in the Event of an Insured Depository Institution Failure (RIN: 3064-AD26) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

865. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the System's "Major" final rule — Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices [Regulation AA; Docket No.: R-1314] received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

866. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

867. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Acting Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle program report for FY 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-58; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

868. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; 2003 State Strategy and 2003 South Coast

Plan for One-Hour Ozone and Nitrogen Dioxide [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0677; FRL-8770-1] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Source Performance Standards; Supplemental Delegation of Authority to the State of Wyoming [R08-WY-2008-0001; FRL 8770-2] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Correction [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0884; FRL-8771-1] received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

871. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations, (Indianapolis, Indiana) [MB Docket No.: 08-122 RM-11440] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

872. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Implementation of the DTV Delay Act [MB Docket No.: 09-17] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

873. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

874. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

875. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting correspondence from John O'Donoghue, T.D., Ceann Comhairle of the Lower House of the Lower House of Parliament of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

876. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Report on the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue Meeting, pursuant to Public Law 107-228, section 702; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

877. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home, transmitting the Home's Annual Performance and Accountability Reports for 2007 and 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

878. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's FY 2008 Competitive Sourcing Activity Report, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, section 647(b) of Division F; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

879. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Mgt, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

880. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's sixth annual report on implementation by Federal agencies of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), pursuant to Title III of Public Law 107-347; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

881. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Marine Recreational Fisheries of the United States; National Saltwater Angler Registry Program [Docket No.: 071001548-81392-02] (RIN: 0648-AW10) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

882. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan [Docket No.: 080407531-8840-02] (RIN: 0648-AW68) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

883. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in

the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XM87) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

884. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XN01) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

885. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 0808041043-9036-02] (RIN: 0648-AX16) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

886. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Money Penalties: Certain Prohibited Conduct; Technical Correction [Docket No.: FR-5081-C-03] (RIN: 2501-AD23) received March 11, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

887. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts [Release Nos.: 33-9009; 34-59449; IA-2845; IC-28635] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

888. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — SOLID WASTE RAIL TRANSFER FACILITIES [STB Ex Parte No.: 684] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

889. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25 (Rev. Proc. 2009-18) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

890. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue Foreign Tax Credit Generator Directive — Revision 1 [LSMB Control No.: LSMB-04-0109-002] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

891. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Activities, Progress, and Plans," pursuant to Public Law 109-58, section 811(a); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science and Technology.

892. A letter from the Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that the Office of Management and Budget has approved the Department's recommendation that 1.7 million courses of smallpox antivirals be procured for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) using the Special Reserve Fund, as authorized by the Project BioShield Act of 2004; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 1388. A bill to reauthorize and reform the national service laws; with an amendment (Rept. 111-37). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOWNS: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1323. A bill to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-38). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1509. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a standard home office deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 1510. A bill to amend the lead prohibition provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to provide an exemption for certain all-terrain vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 1511. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. CAMP, Mr. MICA, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 1512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mrs. HALVORSON):

H.R. 1513. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 1514. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the juvenile accountability block grants program through fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1515. A bill to assist courts in the States and territories with improving the administration of justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MACK, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 1516. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1517. A bill to allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. MASSA):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a higher rate of tax on bonuses paid by businesses receiving TARP funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 1519. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 1520. A bill to improve Federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal real property, by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a multipurpose cadastre of Federal real property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate, and out-of-date Federal land inventories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona,

Mr. COHEN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COBLE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. BERRY):

H.R. 1521. A bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1522. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 1523. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1524. A bill to allow flood insurance coverage under the national flood insurance program for new structures designed to protect public safety that are located in special flood hazard zones; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1525. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to consider reconstruction and improvement of flood protection systems when establishing flood insurance rates; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 1526. A bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1527. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a higher rate of tax on bonuses paid by certain businesses owned by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1528. A bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1529. A bill to permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1530. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1531. A bill to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on

Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1532. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations on the award of the congressional medal of honor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1533. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to specify the minimum rank requirement for officer serving as Chief of the Navy Dental Corps to correspond to Army and Air Force requirements for the heads of their dental corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1534. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to jointly carry out a study on the use of thorium-liquid fueled nuclear reactors for naval power needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1535. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study evaluating and comparing the effectiveness of programs designed to diagnose, treat, and prevent post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1536. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a fellowship program regarding neuroscience; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1537. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct studies regarding alternative models for acquisition and funding of technologies supporting network-centric operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1538. A bill to repeal the small business competitiveness demonstration program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 1539. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to add certain Armed Forces organizations that are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the list of organizations eligible for donations of personal property through State agencies; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, which banned the slave trade in the British Empire, allowed for the search and seizure of ships suspected of transporting enslaved people, and provided compensation for the freedom of slaves; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HILL:

H. Res. 245. A resolution congratulating Miss Katie Stam for being crowned Miss America 2009 and thanking the participants in and supporters of the Miss America Competition for their contributions to young women's lives and communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Res. 246. A resolution expressing support for a National Week of Reflection and Tolerance; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia):

H. Res. 247. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 22, 2009, as "National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SUTTON:

H. Res. 248. A resolution honoring Glenn "Jeep" Davis for being one of the greatest Olympic hurdlers, an active member of his community, and life-long teacher; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RANGEL introduced a bill (H.R. 1540) for the relief of Kadiatou Diallo, Sankerala Diallo, Ibrahim Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, and Mamadou Pathe Diallo; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. BACA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. WU.

H.R. 22: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TURNER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HODES, Mr. CAO, Mr. KIND, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 23: Mr. SPACE, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 24: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. INGLIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHULER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. CULBERSON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 49: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 52: Mr. GEENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 55: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 82: Mr. HERGER and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 101: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 104: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 118: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 154: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 155: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 176: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 179: Mr. STARK and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 181: Mr. SPACE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 205: Mr. TURNER and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 211: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 265: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 270: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 272: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 275: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 293: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 294: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 296: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 297: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 305: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 327: Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 333: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 336: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 389: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 422: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 653: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 731: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 734: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 744: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 775: Ms. FALLIN and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 847: Mr. PIERLUISI and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 927: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 932: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 980: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 983: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 997: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1016: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1017: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1020: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 1044: Mr. HINCHEY and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 1050: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1054: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1055: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1069: Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 1090: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 1098: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 1100: Mr. FILNER and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1136: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. CAMP, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1150: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1159: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1180: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1189: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 1190: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1203: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 1204: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1207: Mr. WAMP and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1209: Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. DENT, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. FOX, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CAO, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1211: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1214: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1240: Mr. CAMP, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1245: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1256: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FALCOMA VAEGA, Mr. HODES, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1265: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H.R. 1280: Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 1295: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1319: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SPACE, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. HILL, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1324: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MASSA, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1325: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1326: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1327: Mr. KIRK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. DRIEHAUS, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 1341: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1362: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1377: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1388: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WU, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1400: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1410: Mr. WU.

H.R. 1429: Ms. NORTON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1441: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1457: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1458: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1460: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 1462: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1476: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1491: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1499: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.J. Res. 26: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. SERRANO.

H. Con. Res. 36: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 55: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H. Res. 109: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 156: Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. Res. 175: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 178: Mr. SPACE and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 191: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 200: Mr. CAO.

H. Res. 207: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H. Res. 209: Ms. KOSMAS.

H. Res. 211: Mr. WU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr.

CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 232: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 234: Mr. WOLF, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. WATSON, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BACA, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 236: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 241: Mr. HIMES, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 242: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. HONDA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER of California, or a designee, to H.R. 1388 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

No. 45

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, who commanded light from darkness and divided the waters into sea and dry land, great and wonderful are Your works. By Your power and might, sustain our Senators this day. Lord, give them the courage to embrace the good and to avoid the evil. When they are fainthearted, strengthen them. When they are weak, support them. When they feel doubts, infuse them with faith in Your power, mercy, and grace. Transform their work into an expression of their worship of You as You help them make a renewed commitment to excellence in words and deeds.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator

from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, which is the legislative vehicle for the lands bill. At 5:30 p.m. today, we will have a cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

On the lands bill issue, Dr. COBURN is supposed to give me some amendments today that we will take a look at and see whether we are going to be able to work something out to have some amendments offered. As my colleagues know, we are back again with this issue. This represents a number of bills that have been held up—a number of these bills have been held up for some time over the past year. In the House, an issue came up, and they amended it and put it on the consent calendar, and it failed by two votes. They didn't get the two-thirds, so it comes back here. I hope we can work something out; otherwise, we will just proceed as we have in the past. Sometime tomorrow, we will be on the bill, probably at about 4 o'clock. We will offer an amendment at that time and proceed to do what we need to do. Dr. COBURN has indicated to me that he won't require reading of the amendment, which could take a lot of time, but we will see what we can work out with him and move forward as quickly as we can.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week-end, we learned that AIG doled out \$165 million in bonuses to their senior executives—bonuses paid for with taxpayer-funded bailout dollars. With millions of Americans out of work, staying up nights trying to figure out how to make this week's paycheck last until the next paycheck, wondering how they will make the next mortgage payment or pay the overdue bill—maybe even a tuition bill—these executive bonuses are beyond even outrageous. I don't know what a term is that is more definitive than "outrageous," but "outrageous" does the trick. These bonuses being paid are outrageous.

President Obama has instructed Secretary Geithner to pursue every legal avenue to address this grievous abuse of taxpayer money. I applaud that effort. Our financial sector will never heal unless the financial companies that helped create this economic crisis begin to regain the public trust. The actions of AIG do just the opposite, and every American is justified in their outrage at this breach of public trust.

President Obama was asked recently about the role of bipartisanship in addressing America's priorities. He said that it is the job of the majority to be inclusive and of the minority to be constructive.

In the early days of the 111th Congress, Democrats have worked to be inclusive. We have achieved considerable legislative success: passing a major lands bill which we will return to later this week, as I have indicated; the children's health insurance bill to provide health coverage to millions of children of low-income families; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to ensure the principle of equal pay for equal work; the President's Economic Recovery Act to begin stabilizing our economy and addressing the fiscal crisis this President inherited; and, of course, we passed the Omnibus appropriations bill,

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



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which was unfinished business from the Bush Presidency. This important legislation funds Government for the rest of the fiscal year and provides funds to help meet the needs of the American people. This success has come when Democrats and Republicans have put politics aside to find common ground.

This week, we will return to consideration of a package of more than 160 public land bills, as I mentioned earlier, that will protect our environment and natural resources for generations to come. This lands package has been called, by editorial writers all over the country, the most significant environmental legislation in more than a quarter of a century.

Chairman BINGAMAN and Senator MURKOWSKI did an outstanding job of working together in the committee. The Senate followed their example by approving the bill earlier this year by a strong bipartisan majority of 73 votes. As we near the finish line on this legislation, I hope Senators from both parties will continue to follow the bipartisan example set by Senators BINGAMAN and MURKOWSKI by once again voting to pass this legislation.

We will also vote on several nominees to President Obama's administration. We hope to do it in the next few days. As our new President attempts to overcome the enormous burdens he inherited from the previous administration, it is critical that we help him succeed by providing him with all the tools, staff, and expertise he needs.

Starting this week, Members will begin to discuss President Obama's budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

Less than 2 months into his term, President Obama has already taken bold and necessary steps to begin the long climb out of the deep ditch that was left to him by the previous administration's fiscal policies. We have begun to take the necessary steps to get our economy back on track, save and create jobs, restore confidence in the markets, and help families keep their homes. President Obama's budget will build on those near-term investments by laying the groundwork for a longer term path back to broad prosperity for all Americans.

The President's budget is built on the promise that no matter how difficult our immediate challenge, we have to keep focused on the future. We will do that by investing in health care, education, and a cleaner more affordable energy policy, while providing tax relief and helping middle-class Americans afford to purchase and stay in their homes.

These are some of the most serious issues we have ever faced, and we face them together. We must all realize that. As we move forward, we have a choice to make. Those who are opposed can try to block us or they can work with us to accomplish the critical needs of the American people. I am confident it will be the latter.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

A THREATENING BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Americans are beginning to get a sense of what the administration's budget means to them. I think it is fair to say that most of them are worried that it spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much.

At a moment when the economy is already seriously challenged, when more people every day are struggling just to make ends meet, and when the national debt is already staggeringly high, Americans were hoping for relief. Instead, they got a budget that threatens the biggest tax hike in history, record spending, and massive debt. This budget literally shocked a lot of people. Spending in this budget is so massive that some estimate more than 250,000 Government workers will be needed to spend it all.

This is consistent with the approach the administration and the Democratically controlled Congress have taken since the beginning of the year. In just 50 days since Inauguration Day, the Democratically controlled Congress voted to spend \$1.2 trillion, which works out to \$24 billion a day or \$1 billion an hour—most of it borrowed—and we are doing this all, of course, in the midst of a recession.

People across the country are understandably nervous about this kind of spending which won't create the jobs that are promised and which will cause further tax hikes in the future to pay for all the borrowing.

Today, I wish to focus on the tax portion of the budget, the various tax hikes the administration, of course, will need in an attempt to cover the budget's \$3.6 trillion price tag.

The administration says that 95 percent of Americans will not see a tax increase under this budget plan. Well, Americans might not see an immediate increase in their income taxes, but there is more than one way, as they say, to skin a cat, and there is more than one way for Government to take money out of your pocket. I will mention just three that the administration has proposed.

First, there is the proposed new energy tax which would tax everyone who uses energy, which, of course, is 100 percent of the population.

The administration estimates that its cap-and-trade proposal would raise about \$650 billion from gas and electric companies and other businesses. The first thing to note about this tax is that no one, not even administration officials, thinks this figure is even close to the amount that will actually be raised, and no one, not even administration officials, believes that every cent of it won't be passed along to con-

sumers. The President himself said during the campaign that his cap-and-trade plan would cause utility rates to "skyrocket." This is President Obama himself who indicated during the campaign that he thought utility rates under his plan would skyrocket. More recently, OMB Director Orszag publicly reaffirmed the administration's view that cap and trade would increase energy taxes for everyone. This means that anybody who turns on a lightbulb will feel the pain. How bad will it be? Well, researchers at MIT were a little more specific than the President and Mr. Orszag. These researchers at MIT predicted that the proposal would cost the average American household \$3,128 a year. Now, this is the average American household under this budget and the energy taxes it will levy: \$3,128 per household.

Most of the utilities and manufacturers that take a direct hit from the energy tax are big businesses, but what about the small businesses which account for nearly three-fourths of all new private sector jobs? Well, there is a tax for them too. Thanks to an income tax hike on anyone earning more than \$200,000 a year, many will see their taxes go up significantly. Think of a general contractor, a family restaurant, a startup technology firm. These are the engines of our economy. They are struggling now. They will struggle even more once these tax hikes go into effect.

Businesses with 20 or more employees get hit particularly hard. These businesses account for two-thirds of the small business workforce. The President's budget includes a tax increase on more than half of those businesses.

It is an iron rule of economics that taxes influence the decisions of those who are taxed. And businesses that have less income as a result of higher taxes are likely to do three things: cut jobs, put off buying new or better equipment, and take fewer risks. The real-world consequences of those decisions are immense: more jobs lost, less innovation, fewer new products, and lower salaries for employees, almost all of whom are probably making less than \$200,000 a year.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans are losing their jobs every month. Millions fear losing their homes. In response, the administration has promised in this budget a tax hike on the Nation's biggest job creators. These businesses are shedding workers already. Higher taxes will force them to shed even more.

I understand the administration's desire to make good on its promise of reforms. Most Americans understand that reforms are needed in health care, education, energy, and other areas. But they want the administration to fix the crisis in the financial sector first. Until we devote our full attention to that crisis, all other recovery efforts will be in danger of coming undone. With the highest unemployment rate in 25 years, Americans simply don't see the sense in raising taxes on small business.

Americans from all walks of life—and both political parties—are worried about something else in the budget. They don't understand why charitable organizations and the people they serve should suffer in order to pay for new or expanded Government programs. Yet in an attempt to pay for all of its spending proposals, the Obama budget reduces the deductions for charitable donations.

At a time of economic distress, when more people than ever depend on these organizations, the administration's budget reduces the incentive for people to donate to them. This will affect donations everywhere, from the Salvation Army to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Association, to educational nonprofits such as universities and art museums. According to one study, this proposal can lead to \$9 billion less in charitable giving each year.

The proposal on charitable giving appears to follow the European model, where people rely on the state to support cultural institutions. In Europe, people rely on the State to support cultural institutions, but nonprofits across our country are mobilizing against the idea and for good reason: people who give money to these institutions should not be penalized for it, and charities and nonprofits themselves certainly should not be expected to subsidize the administration's policy dreams.

These are hard times. Why make them even harder? That is the question a lot of people who have seen this budget are beginning to ask. They are looking at the highest tax increase ever, higher taxes on small business, a proposal that would divert billions of dollars away from the Nation's charities, and a light-switch tax that will touch every single American, and they see a lot more hardship. These tax hikes are precisely the wrong prescription at a time of already serious economic distress.

The budget plan has a number of fatal flaws. But in the midst of a financial crisis, American workers don't need another reason to fear they will lose their jobs, small business owners shouldn't be further discouraged from investing, and the Nation's charities should not have to fear that even less money will come in. This budget doesn't just spend and borrow too much, it taxes too much.

AIG BONUSES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, regarding the AIG bonuses, it is hard to overstate the outrage that I and others experienced over the weekend to learn that AIG, which already has received nearly \$175 billion from the American taxpayer, is planning to hand out \$165 million in bonuses to its employees. This is absolutely appalling, and it is particularly disturbing given the fact that I sent a letter to Secretary Paulson more than 5 months ago insisting that if taxpayers were going to

help private businesses, then the Treasury would need to use its "full enforcement powers to prevent any misuse of taxpayer funds."

The administration needs to get the message from the taxpayers on this issue. Going forward, the American people need to have complete certainty that taxpayer money is not wasted in this particular manner again. It is my hope the administration will continue to press AIG on these bonuses and that it will pursue any and all lawful means of recovering these payments to the very people who were responsible for creating this mess in the first place.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

AIG BONUSES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the bonuses for thousands of employees at AIG, that huge insurance company to which the Government, the taxpayers of the United States, have shoveled \$170 billion into to keep that company afloat, makes me recall an old maxim. The Sessions maxim I call it—announced about 20 years ago when I was a Federal prosecutor attempting to faithfully enforce complex Federal regulations. I stated this:

Oh, what a tangled web we create when first we start to regulate.

The more we proceed with policies whereby the Government owns 80 percent of the stock of a private insurance company—or any company—especially after we poured \$170 billion in to buy that stock—the more we are inevitably compelled to direct how the company operates, to the point of deciding whom their executives should be. We basically picked Mr. Liddy, the chief executive—plus what the company's salary scale should be or what aircraft it can or cannot have or where and what kind of corporate retreat they might have or whether they can pay bonuses.

The size of our investment—"investment" is an absurd term when used to describe the reckless, gargantuan commitment of our citizens' money to AIG puts us, the American people into the

insurance business. Not long ago, I had occasion to meet an official of a healthy insurance company. In jest, I asked him—it is not one of the biggest in the country, but it is a sizable company with broad reach. I asked him how he liked competing with a company supported by the deep pockets of the taxpayers. He replied it wasn't a joke—AIG was their top competitor in several economic or insurance markets. At bottom, we extract tax money from this businessman to keep afloat his reckless competitor. The size of this commitment cannot and should not be lost on us. The entire Alabama State budget—we are about one-fiftieth of the national population, a State well and frugally run by our Governor, Bob Riley—including the State education budget for all the schools and all the teachers—thousands of schools—amounts to about \$7 billion a year. So how big is the \$170 billion we put into AIG? It is big.

The entire Federal highway budget, for our interstate system and all the pork projects that get added to the highway bill, and the billions we send to the States for their highway programs, since they are on an 80/20, 90/10 matched basis, with the majority Federal Government money, is \$40 billion a year. So that \$170 billion is a lot of money.

But here we are, and similar to that unwise banker, we face the dilemma: Do we pour more good money in to revive this corpse in a desperate effort to recoup our improvident "investment"?

It is not an investment because no rational investor would ever have invested this kind of money in this company. The bullet was already in its heart. It was a dead duck. Only the Government would have put in the kind of money we put into it.

So the facts are now becoming clear about some of the problems that go along with being in the private insurance business. The New York Times and the Washington Post have produced certain facts, with front-page stories yesterday, which, having read them, caused me indignation and provoked me to write these remarks for which I ask you to forgive me for delivering. But it makes me feel a bit better.

What was the purpose of this \$170 billion? The Washington Post said yesterday that it was to "keep the company afloat."

Treasury Secretary Geithner has had a "difficult" conversation, according to the papers, with AIG's leader, Mr. Edward M. Liddy, about Mr. Liddy's plan to award \$165 million in bonuses. Mr. Liddy says he finds that awarding the bonuses is "distasteful."

I am glad to hear him say that. But then he says they are required under previous contracts entered into before he came to AIG or was put there by Secretary Paulson, President Bush's Secretary of the Treasury.

As an aside, let me recall that had this matter been handled in the regular

order such as other businesses in America get handled; that is, by appeal to the bankruptcy court for protection and reorganization under chapter 11, which doesn't shut down a company entirely but allows it to operate under bankruptcy protection, such as Delta Airlines, which is now performing very finely after saving itself through reorganization in bankruptcy, these bonus contracts would surely have been invalidated. For how could any Federal judge hold that executives of the "same business unit that brought the company to the brink of collapse last year," said the New York Times, be given bonuses.

This was a unit that did these reckless insurance derivatives that got them into this fix. So why should they be given a bonus?

This has certainly been an embarrassment to, I will say not so much to the company which has by contract apparently awarded these bonuses, but to Secretary Geithner and President Obama, who I understand himself, his very self, today called for not awarding these bonuses. The President of the United States is now deciding the bonus policy of what was once at least a private company in the United States.

At bottom, our tax money is being used to pay bonuses to reward those responsible for one of the most colossal and reckless errors in the history of world finance.

I think this whole situation is one small but very revealing reason why I think that our Government—and I certainly include the Bush administration which started the process—should not have allowed itself to be drawn into, in fact, punching this tar baby, getting itself more and more deeply embedded in a situation that it has no real ability or capability to manage.

You see, we now own about 80 percent of AIG. It is ours—yours and mine. Who then is to run AIG? Secretary Geithner? I like to call these high finance guys such as Mr. Geithner "masters of the universe." He is now returning from Europe where he upbraided the Governments of France and Germany for not spending more money and for not invading deeper into the private sector and for not going into debt even more deeply to, as he would say, I guess, stimulate the economy. He thinks they ought to spend more and borrow more, and they are spending more and borrowing a lot. He thinks they should be spending more and borrowing more and they should be like us.

I suspect running AIG must be a bit distracting even for our fine master of the universe because he has taken on the duty of advising not only the President and our Congress on how to fix the economy, but he is now advising our big government friends in Europe who are concerned about taking on more debt. The world is his parish, it seems. All the while, the proud people of the United States, inheritors of a great

tradition of free enterprise and limited Government, watched this spectacle unfold in total mortification.

The irony of these events, the historical dissonance of these acts of the United States pushing Europe further toward socialism, seems to be lost on our smiling and brilliant young Secretary.

We are in a very difficult period financially, and there is only a limited number of actions prudent governments can take to fix it. But still in campaign mode, our Secretary declares it is the fault of the previous administration, and he promises that the new President will lead us out of it with bold action.

Our Secretary of the Treasury is now calling Mr. Liddy at AIG and the paper said "demands"—that he apparently violate contracts requiring these bonuses. I submit it is not so much because of the financial significance of these bonuses, but because it is an embarrassment politically. You see, the populace is getting a bit aroused about this, and the focus of their anger might cease to fall on the last administration and begin to fall on Secretary Geithner and his boss.

The "bonus" dustup in one sense was theater, flim flummery, mountebankery, of course. Apparently in accordance with contracts and law, Mr. Liddy, while properly effecting his distaste for having to pay these bonuses, reluctantly paid them. I think they were paid yesterday. It caused much ado.

Mr. Liddy, the Government—it is not fair to call him a stooge. He was actually placed in this position by the Government to take over this unfortunate, disastrous company. However, he could not resist one parting shot to his overlords, noting that he could not run "the AIG businesses—which are now being operated principally on behalf of the American taxpayers—if employees believe their compensation is subject to continued and arbitrary adjustment by the U.S. Treasury."

He says right there he is operating this company on behalf of the American taxpayers, but he cannot do so if the Secretary of Treasury is going to tell him what kind of employment policy he should execute. That was in the paper yesterday. Apparently he wrote that letter Saturday.

Oh, what a tangled web we create. Will Secretary Geithner now set policy on insurance premiums? We own the company. Why can't the Government cut everybody's premium? Maybe we could order the premiums to be lowered. We own 80 percent. That would be a nice stimulus, wouldn't it, lower everybody's premiums? That is a stimulus we have not tried yet.

Probably not. He is too busy running the world and advising the French and the Germans on how to conduct their business and telling them they need to borrow more money.

What is going to happen now that the President and Mr. Geithner have de-

manded that the bonuses be stopped? This is pretty interesting now. What is going to happen? The people at AIG said they have to award the bonuses or they will be sued. Are they going to sue Secretary Geithner and the President if the bonuses do not get awarded?

I suggest it is plainly obvious that the folks who destroyed the financial soundness of AIG should not in any just world get a bonus. The only thing free they may deserve is a free lunch and a free room in the Bastille.

One thing we know: Much of this money has passed through AIG to the benefit of other corporate interests. But one thing we don't know completely is who they are, although today's paper had some of them listed. The biggest one getting \$12 billion plus, almost twice the total 1-year funding for the State of Alabama, was Goldman Sachs—Secretary Paulson's company he left to join the Government and be Secretary of the Treasury. They were the biggest "bailoutee" of this whole mess. We are going to find out more about that. But it doesn't look good to me. I don't like this whole process.

Things were decided in secret without any kind of hearing, so far as I can tell, without in-depth taking of testimony under oath, such as would happen in a bankruptcy court. Apparently people came in to Secretary Paulson's and later Secretary Geithner's office. They sat in and asked for \$50 billion, \$100 billion, \$80 billion, and they would discuss it a little bit and would come out and say: We will give you \$60 billion.

How does this happen? I don't know. I think we have a right as Americans to be concerned—very concerned—about the recklessness on Wall Street that caused a major financial catastrophe for the country. And we need to be worried that our attempt in panic, I think, to fix it may cause more problems for our historical heritage of free enterprise. A lot of people have begun to think about it. Although when I talk with people in my home State, they think about it. They say: What are you guys doing? My 88-year-old great-aunt, whose eyes are failing and she cannot read now, but she tries to keep up on things, she put her hand on my arm a few weeks ago and said: Buddy—she calls me "Buddy"—ya'll don't know what you're doing up there, do you? She was so sympathetic. That is what most American people think and are probably right.

I will say again, if your Government, our Government had acted properly, we would have allowed this company to go forward in a controlled, orderly process through reorganization under chapter 11, and we would not have this bonus embarrassment. Those folks would have been ordered to tell the truth in a well-equipped Federal court process, and there would have been no reason for the healthy parts of AIG to fail at all. They are being pulled down by the bad part. They could have then dealt with that toxic part of the company in

a more responsible way, in a more public way, in a bankruptcy court before a Federal judge who took testimony under oath and could put people in jail who deserve to go to jail.

I conclude with this. This spectacular spasm should be a vivid warning to the danger of arrogance by those would-be masters of the universe. You are not as smart as you think you are. Market forces ultimately control in the real world. Nothing comes from nothing. Debts must be paid.

Secretaries Paulson and Geithner remind me of a man in an airplane off the gulf coast throwing out dry ice in an attempt to prevent a hurricane. Do you remember that? Or of Mr. Ludd in England taking a sledgehammer to the weaving looms of England to stop the Industrial Revolution. I have seen the force of real hurricanes. We are now seeing the force of a financial hurricane, and a lot of people are getting hurt.

But there is good news, really there is. Hurricanes do pass. We will recover. The greatest danger, though, is that in this time of trouble, our Government, in a burst of overreach, will permanently damage the great heritage of free enterprise, ordered liberty, and limited Government that has made this the freest, most productive economy in the history of the world. Why would we want to be lecturing France on how to conduct an economy by telling them they should be a bigger, more oppressive government than they already are?

I will certainly meet my colleagues in a bipartisan effort to work to mitigate the economic and emotional pain we are now suffering. But if bipartisanship means acquiescing in the wildest of economic chimeras that we have recently followed, count me out. If it means changing the legal and economic order that, through ups and downs, has formed the moral basis of the American dream and served us so well, count me out.

Oh, we are told by our leaders—and Mr. Geithner said this at the Budget Committee hearing when I asked him a few days ago—we would never want to do that. We are committed to the American heritage of economic order, he said. But one writer noted that at a time of rapid erosion of a nation's classical values, the leaders are most vociferous in proclaiming their adherence to them.

Count me a skeptic. I am watching what is being done, not what is being said. For me and for those who love liberty, limited Government, and free enterprise, these actions that are occurring today are troubling and frightening indeed.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. What is the business before the Senate?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to H.R. 146, an act to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, earlier this year, the Senate passed S. 22, which is the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, a collection of over 160 bills primarily from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. After a week of debate, the Senate passed S. 22 by a vote of 73 to 21. That vote occurred on January 15.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives has not yet passed S. 22. In an effort to facilitate consideration of this package of bills in the other body, it is my hope that we will be able to attach the omnibus lands package to another bill that has already passed the House of Representatives and send it back where, hopefully, it can be quickly approved.

As the first step of this process this afternoon, the Senate will vote on whether to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, which is the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act. If cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to that bill, and once we are on that bill, it is my intention to offer a substitute amendment that will essentially substitute the text of S. 22 as passed by the Senate.

In addition to making a few technical corrections to the previously passed bill text, the amendment incorporates one change that was not in the underlying Senate bill when it was previously passed.

Following Senate passage of S. 22, I understand that some Members in the House of Representatives expressed concern that the portion of the bill pertaining to Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails and National Heritage Areas might somehow be construed to limit access for authorized hunting, fishing, and trapping activities. While I

am confident the Senate bill in no way restricts those activities, in an attempt to make this completely clear, the substitute amendment I will propose to offer, if we are able to do that, adds a provision in title V which covers Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails language designations. The new language states that:

Nothing in this title shall be construed as affecting access for recreational activities otherwise allowed by law or regulation, including hunting, fishing, or trapping.

Furthermore:

Nothing in this title shall be construed as affecting the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the several States to manage, control or regulate fish and resident wildlife under State law or regulations, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping.

The amendment adds similar language in title VIII, which is the title designating National Heritage Areas. I would like to thank Senator MURKOWSKI, who is the ranking member on the Energy Committee with me in this Congress, and also Senator CRAPO, for their assistance with this provision.

With this clarification, I believe all interested parties now agree that the bill is clear that access for recreational hunting, fishing, and trapping is not affected by the river, trail, or heritage area designations.

As we noted before, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act is collectively one of the most significant conservation bills to be considered by the Senate in this past decade. It will result in the addition of over 2 million new acres of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It will designate three new units to the National Park System, and it enlarges the boundaries of several existing parks. It creates a new national monument and three new national conservation areas. It adds over 1,000 new miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and over 2,800 miles of new trails that will be part of the National Trails System. It establishes in law the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System that protects over 1.2 million acres of the Wyoming Range.

In addition, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act authorizes numerous land exchanges and conveyances to help local communities throughout the West. It includes the Forest Landscape Restoration Act, which will help undertake collaborative landscape-scale restoration projects to help reduce both future fire risk and fire-associated costs. It incorporates over 30 bills which will help address critical water resource needs at both the national and local level. It authorizes several studies to help communities better understand their local water supplies and the best way to meet future water needs, and it includes several authorizations for local and regional water projects that enhance water use efficiencies, address water infrastructure needs, and help provide sustainable water supplies to rural communities.

Finally, the bill will ratify three important water settlements—settlements in California, Nevada, and New Mexico. These settlements will resolve literally decades of litigation between the affected States, Indian tribes, agricultural and municipal water users, and environmental interests.

The previous vote on S. 22 was 73 Senators voting to pass the bill—evidence of the strong bipartisan support for this package. Invoking cloture this afternoon on the motion to proceed to H.R. 146 is the first step necessary to move the Omnibus Public Land Management Act toward enactment into law.

In closing, I would like to, of course, thank our majority leader, Senator REID, for his continued commitment to pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to support invoking cloture on the motion to proceed when we have that vote at 5:30 today.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AIG

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, every time I see you sitting in the presiding chair, I can't help but think how proud your uncle, the late senior Senator from Florida and the late former Governor of Florida, Lawton Chiles—your uncle, since your mom was Lawton's sister—how proud he would be and what an enormously wonderful contribution and addition you are to the Senate. Thank you for the recognition.

It is with a heavy heart that I have to speak on this continuing saga of Wall Street, the continuing saga that the executives of big corporations in this country—and I am not talking about all corporations but a limited number of corporations with high-flying executives who, in the midst of us trying to work out this economic devastation we are in, do not understand that what they do and what they say, whether it is reality, has perception to it. As a result, they have angered a lot of people.

A lot of that anger, that disbelief, that “oh my” moment comes when you hear about what we heard over the weekend about AIG, American Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance companies in the world, which got into trouble. Last fall, we were presented with what in effect became an \$85 billion bailout. I will never forget, as the new Secretary of the Treasury was coming through the confirmation

process and the members of the Finance Committee had a chance to talk to him, I asked him: Why did we let Lehman Brothers go down and yet we propped up AIG? The answer was that AIG was too big, the hole was too big, that it would have had too many ramifications across the global marketplace to let it go down, whereas contrasted with Lehman Brothers, the financial hole was too big that it just simply could not be repaired.

Originally, they were talking about \$40 or \$50 billion to bail out AIG. Then it became \$85 billion. If we had known that \$85 billion, when we first agreed to let this happen last fall, if we had known that was going to go in taxpayer money to upwards of \$170 billion, and if we had known that money was going to prop up other financial institutions to which they had an economic obligation, many of those financial institutions across the world, would we have done it? Well, I doubt we would have because \$85 billion was big enough, but now closing in on \$170 billion of taxpayer money, I don't think we would have agreed to that. I sure don't think we would have agreed if we knew that money was going to—now get this—almost \$13 billion to Goldman Sachs; to a French financial company almost \$12 billion, Societe Generale; almost \$12 billion—all of this taxpayer money—to Deutsche Bank of Germany; \$8.5 billion to Barclays; Merrill Lynch, which eventually bit the dust, \$6.8 billion; Bank of America, which is in deep trouble right now, \$5.2 billion, in deep trouble because they acquired Merrill Lynch; UBS, \$5 billion—the list goes on through DNP, HSBC, Citigroup, Calyon, Dresdner Kleinwort, Wachovia, ING, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of Montreal.

That is American taxpayers' hard-earned money that was going to pay off those insurance policies called credit default swaps that were a kind of guarantee, a derivative that if they made a wrong bet, they would be protected by that insurance company. And lo and behold, that insurance company, the full weight and credit and finances of the United States Government—re: the American taxpayer—is going in, you can't say it with any other word, to bail out these companies.

Would we, the Senate, had we known \$170 billion was going to bail out AIG, and of that money what I just listed was going to these corporations around the globe, half of which are foreign corporations? I don't think we would.

Is it any wonder people are upset? Is it any wonder the President of the United States has just had a press conference today saying he wants the Secretary of the Treasury to go back to find out what they can do to stop those bonuses from being paid or to get them back if they have already been paid? And, oh, by the way, why did AIG, last fall, when it made all of these payments, refuse to identify the individual financial institutions it was giving the money to? It all the more adds insult

to injury. No wonder people are so mad and upset.

Now, I just came from a townhall meeting in Ocoee, FL. It is little town west of Orlando. A lot of the towns' city councils, mayors in that region of west Orange County—the Chamber of Commerce—all came today. I can tell you, this was on their mind. But they want to know something more. They want to know what has happened to old-fashioned right and wrong? What has happened to old-fashioned ethics?

When this Senator went to high school, we did not have ethics classes. It now seems we have to teach ethics classes, not only in our elementary and secondary schools, but all the way in our universities now. What is it that has gotten our leadership so askew they cannot get beyond their own blinders to see what they are doing and how it is affecting everybody else?

Now, it is no—I was going to say it is no secret, but it is not a secret, it is just a fact that I have had the privilege of being a public servant virtually all of my adult life. When I was a kid growing up, that was one of the highest callings for a person. I am starting to see some of that rekindled in young people now. But, my goodness, when they hear about all of this stuff—banks and bankers are public servants. They are entrusted with the people's money, to use it and invest it wisely, and then to be accountable for what happens to it. We elected officials are not the only public servants. There are public servants in every walk of life. If you are a teacher, if you are a doctor, a nurse—whatever your field—you are a public servant, and you owe a responsibility and accountability to the society and the country that has given you the opportunities you have. That seems to be going out of control.

We read another story a couple days ago. Bank of America bit off something they could not chew, which was Merrill Lynch. They said they were duped. Merrill Lynch gave a whole bunch of bonuses. The CEO of Bank of America, which bought Merrill Lynch, said he told them not to, and yet they did anyway. Well, since when did the captain of the ship not control the ship?

And, oh, by the way, are the CEOs of these institutions that are receiving taxpayer money not reading the papers? Did they not hear about the backlash as to the three executives of the Detroit Big Three automakers when they came to testify for a bailout of Federal taxpayer money, and they all came in their private jets? There was so much scorn and derision. They could have, of course, gotten on one of the three jets. They seemed to learn the lessons, so the next time they came to Congress asking for a bailout again, they drove their own vehicles.

Well, what happened to the CEO of Bank of America, who has taken \$45 billion of taxpayer money? Of course, he is a busy man and very talented, but

he flies his Gulfstream V for a meeting in New York. It is perception. And that perception—I am not jumping on just him, I am trying to get people to understand, when you are dealing with the public's wheel, the public's business—and that certainly includes taxpayer money—then you have to be responsible and accountable. It seems somehow this goes over people's head.

Well, we all make mistakes. Certainly this Senator has made mistakes. One of the things about the American people is, they are a forgiving people. If someone, when they make a mistake, will admit it, people are very willing to give a person a second chance.

When you keep names secret, when you take billions and tens of billions of dollars of Federal taxpayer money, when you are insensitive to the perception of the high-flying style of life you are living, the American public is not very forgiving. That is what has happened over the weekend. That is what happened in that townhall meeting of mine today in Ocoee, FL.

That is another reason the President has again stood up and spoken out and said: We are going to stop this. Why do we want to stop it? Because we all seek the same goal; that is, the resuscitation of our economy, to get the banks lending again so dollars can go out to businesses and small businesses, so they can employ people and reverse the soaring unemployment rate. That is the goal: to get America back to work, to get America moving forward again economically.

It is my hope I do not have to have the kind of townhall meeting where people are upset as they were today and as they were over the weekend in the meetings.

SPACE SHUTTLE LAUNCH

There was one good thing I did attend over the weekend. I saw Government dollars at work, as the space shuttle soared into the night sky at Cape Canaveral at the Kennedy Space Center. That was one of the most beautiful launches I have ever seen. It was right on time. Of course, it had had its delays, but that is part of the space program, making sure when you get down to T minus zero and those solid rocket boosters light off, you have it right.

Indeed, NASA had it right, and they gave a little lift to the American people last night with that display of power: almost 7 million pounds of thrust, straight up, and then arching over into a low Earth orbit.

Those astronauts now will go out and take another big section of the truss, attach it to the Space Station, and then install the final solar arrays so that the International Space Station will be up and powered with the electricity it needs for all of the scientific experimentation that is going to be done on the International Space Station, which has been designated a national laboratory of the United States.

That was a moment of joy in an otherwise time of difficult economic circumstances.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator KYL and I be permitted to engage in a colloquy for 20 minutes, and that I be informed when we have 2 minutes left.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

Madam President, President Obama's budget raises taxes by \$1.4 trillion over 10 years. It is the largest tax increase in history, right in the middle of a recession—a recession we all hope we can get out of soon.

I have with me today on the Senate floor my colleague Senator JON KYL, a member of the Finance Committee, who is, in our party, at least, and certainly within the entire Senate, one of the experts on taxation and jobs and progrowth Government policies.

I say to Senator KYL, I was looking through the history books a little bit this weekend. I noticed President Hoover, in 1932, raised taxes. He, in the Revenue Act of 1932, raised taxes across the board and raised the top tax rate from 25 percent to 63 percent. That was at a time when the unemployment rate was about 23 percent in this country. The effects of the 1932 tax increase were income tax revenues went down and the Federal deficit went up and unemployment stayed up all the way to 1940, when it was still 15 percent.

But President Kennedy, of course a Democratic President, came along after a little bit of a sluggish period of time, and he cut taxes in a variety of ways and tax revenues went up. President Reagan came in a few years later, after a difficult time in the late 1970s, which I remember very well, and he reduced taxes and tax revenues went up.

So I wonder what the lessons in history are. If we are in the middle of a recession and people are struggling for jobs—and in the Hoover and Kennedy and Reagan administrations we learned that tax increases often reduce revenues and impose costs—what is the lesson in history for the Obama budget?

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I would say to my friend from Tennessee, of course, he knows the answer, having been a great student of history himself. If anyone would like to get one of the definitive works on this, it is a book called "The Forgotten Man." The author is Amity Shlaes. It is very well written. One of the key points it makes is precisely the historical point that my colleague from Tennessee makes; namely, that about the time the United States began to come out of the

Depression, President Roosevelt's view was it was time to try to balance the budget and as a result—as Hoover had tried to do when he increased taxes and the economy tanked, which is exactly what happened again. So we didn't just have one Great Depression; we had a period of time when our country was in depression, it started to get out of the depression, and then went back into depression until World War II, largely because of this increase in taxes. The combination of the Smoot-Hawley tariffs—which are an increase in taxes of a different kind—and the income tax rates plunged the country back into the Depression.

If I could respond to the point about President Kennedy, he did exactly the opposite. We were in the doldrums, and he proposed, after he was elected in 1960, that we actually reduce the capital gains tax. Now, I remember this because I was taking a course in economics at the University of Arizona at the time and I wrote a paper on this. I went home, I believe it was over the Christmas recess, and I talked to my father about it. I said: President Kennedy is a Democrat, I am a Republican, but I think he is doing the right thing. My father said: He is doing the right thing. I remember writing that in the paper and my professor was kind of scratching his head because he looked at it in a more political way. Yet if you look at it in a purely economic point of view, when the economy is not doing so well, the last thing you want to do is to raise tax rates. In fact, you can do a lot of good by reducing taxes, which is what Kennedy did, and it had a very profound and positive impact. Those are the lessons history teaches.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I believe there is another lesson, too, if we look back 40 years to October of 1969. It sounds very good to say we are going to tax the rich people. There are just a few of them; they are not you. We are going to take their money. You will be all right. That is exactly what happened in 1969. That was the last time we had a millionaires tax—that is what they called it—because they found 155 people who had paid no income taxes, so they passed the millionaires tax. We have another name for it today; it is called the alternative minimum tax. This year, if Congress did not act, it would have taxed 28 million Americans. It started out to catch 155 rich Americans and now could catch 28 million, including a lot of the middle class.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I would say to my colleague that is exactly right. That is one of the reasons why in this so-called stimulus package, a 1-year relief from the alternative minimum tax was included because we knew that the net was now casting so wide it would incorporate 20-plus million people into the category of millionaires—people who made \$50,000; \$60,000; \$70,000. The problem was the rates were never indexed for inflation, so what only caught millionaires at one time is now catching decidedly middle-class taxpayers.

The same thing could easily be done with the proposals that the administration has in the budget—a budget which, as we discussed last week, spends too much, taxes too much, and it borrows too much. We think we ought to spend less, tax less, and borrow less, which is one of the reasons we think the tax portions of the Obama budget are wrong.

Mr. ALEXANDER. One of the tax portions has to do with what Senator GREGG, the Senator from New Hampshire, who is our ranking Republican on the Budget Committee, calls the national sales tax on electricity, a tax that would be a so-called cap-and-trade system tax.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, that is exactly right.

Mr. ALEXANDER. It doesn't just get rich people.

Mr. KYL. No. Madam President, this is the so-called mandatory cap-and-trade system that is included within the budget under which the Government would set how much businesses could produce in the way of carbon by their activity, and then, of course, they would pass the costs of this limitation onto their customers. Now, that only applies to people who either directly use energy, such as electricity or gasoline or you buy something that has been made with energy. I think that covers just about everybody.

The point is, it will take, from every American family, at least \$800 a year, which is the amount of the so-called tax cut the President—I have forgotten what he calls that in the budget.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I think he calls it the Making Work Pay credit.

Mr. KYL. That is correct, the Make Work Pay Act, which is actually nothing more than a spending program in the guise of a tax cut. But whatever that gives back to people, it only covers what has been taken from them in this energy tax, and, in fact, that is just the beginning. The energy tax, by all accounts, will explode to a far greater burden on every family than an initial burden of 800 bucks.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, it is not entirely clear how much a cap-and-trade system on the entire economy will raise. The President estimates in his budget \$646 billion over 10 years. Some observers think that is low; that it might be \$60, \$80, \$100, \$120 billion or even more over 10 years. The cap-and-trade system—the way of limiting the use of carbon in the economy—is the subject of a very important debate we should be having in the Senate. For the whole 6 years I have been in the Senate, I have recommended a cap-and-trade system just for powerplants, not for the whole economy. I see the distinguished Senator from New Mexico on the floor who is chairman of the Energy Committee. He has had his own bill there. But our point would be in the middle of a recession, you don't put on top of the American people a new tax on electric bills and gasoline purchases.

Just in December of last year, 10 percent of customers for Nashville Electric Service said they couldn't pay their electric bills, even with TVA's relatively low rates. So whatever the views are on cap-and-trade—and there are many views even within our conference: Our Presidential nominee, JOHN MCCAIN, supported cap-and-trade, and I support a limited one but not in the middle of a recession—the way to deal with a recession is not more taxes.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, if I could also talk about some of the other effects of this. The problem with this kind of an energy tax is that when people use less energy, obviously they buy less, they travel less, and all of this curtails economic activity. It has been estimated the gross domestic product of the United States would be roughly 1 percent lower at the end of 2014 and 2.6 percent lower by 2030, just by having to pay this tax. As economic activity would slow, employers wouldn't need to hire as many workers. In fact, it is estimated that employers would create 850,000 fewer jobs by 2014 and 3 million fewer jobs by 2030. The effect on household income would be dramatic. It would reduce, on average, household income adjusted for inflation by \$1,000 in 2014 and \$4,000 by 2030. Of course, it is also a problem because not everyone will bear the same burden, and it is a very regressive tax, given the fact that people at a lower economic income level have to pay a higher percentage of their family income for energy than do higher income folks.

So for a lot of different reasons, this is a very bad idea, and as my colleague from Tennessee points out, it is a terrible idea in the middle of a recession.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Our responsibility as the minority party is often to hold the administration accountable, to point out the other side of things, and to oppose things we think are wrong. Our responsibility also is to say what we are for. This week during the debate and over the next couple weeks you will hear Republicans offering different ideas for a clean energy agenda, one that begins with conservation, on which most of us agree. You will hear ideas including building 100 new nuclear powerplants, that is carbon free. You will hear ideas about finding more natural gas, that is low carbon and using plug-in electric cars, which we can plug in at night and we wouldn't have to build any more powerplants. So we could move toward more American energy, as clean as possible and as fast as possible, but what we want to remember—and this doesn't seem to be remembered in the budget—is to do so at as low a cost as possible because people are hurting today because of unemployment and high costs and a lack of jobs.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, let me turn to a slightly different aspect of this same problem. It is not just the energy tax in this budget that we are concerned about; it is also a variety of

tax policies that will clearly and dramatically impact business—again, not what you want to do at a time of a recession. For example, it heavily taxes American corporations that have operations overseas. Now, we want to compete overseas. We don't want to just have American businesses here in America. Anybody who would go overseas to do business would be heavily taxed here. That will have a dramatic impact on our exports, which have been a big part of our economy and on our gross domestic product in general.

Another thing it does at this time, which is dead wrong, is to indirectly impose a much higher cost on obtaining a mortgage because it limits the amount of mortgage interest deduction. One of the things that has enabled millions and millions of Americans to own their own home is because we have favorable tax treatment. They can take the mortgage interest deduction as a deduction from their Federal income taxes. So why would we limit the amount of deduction for your home mortgage, especially at this time when we are trying to encourage more people to buy homes and we don't want banks to end up with more bad loans on their books.

Then, in addition, there are other tax rates that are allowed to increase rather than to continue where they are, and these are the rates on the income tax for the top two marginal rate categories. These are exactly the people who are reporting small business income. We know small businesses create up to 80 percent of the jobs in the economy, so there again, directly imposing a greater burden on the people who run and operate the small businesses in this country; precisely the group who needs to have more income in order to hire more people so we don't have as many unemployed.

In all these ways, the budget is going to directly negatively impact our economic situation at exactly the wrong time.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Well, the Senator from Arizona brings up a very good point, which is the limitation on deductions people might take. Now, again, that sounds pretty good because one may say: Well, that applies just to someone with a lot of money, but let's think about this for a minute. That means charitable deductions in the United States would not receive the same sort of treatment under President Obama's plan that they do today. So we take a college such as Maryville College in my hometown, which is a small Presbyterian college that doesn't have a very large endowment; a faith-based college. It is having a tough time in the economy anyway. Then we come along and we say to people to whom it might turn for charitable contributions: Sorry, we are going to take away the incentive that Americans have to make charitable contributions to the colleges, to the Boy Scouts, to the Girl Scouts, to the pro-life groups, to the pro-choice groups, to all sorts of associations in America that are having a

hard time raising money for charitable activities, and we are going to make it that much harder.

This country leads the world in terms of charitable contributions. Typically, about 2 percent of our income goes to charitable contributions. No other country in the world has that sort of tradition of giving, and in the middle of a recession we would limit charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations who are already struggling.

Madam President, we have been asking the question: Why would someone who is interested in seeing an economic recovery propose these kinds of tax policies—to limit charitable deductions, limit the deduction on home mortgages, punish American companies doing business overseas, and put a mandatory energy tax on the American people?

All of these are policies that don't seem to make any sense. As my colleague pointed out in the very beginning, they run opposite to the lessons we have learned historically. Why would this be done? It turns out that a very interesting op-ed in the Wall Street Journal last Thursday, March 12, may have the answer. It was written by Daniel Henninger. It is called "The Obama Rosetta Stone." It is said that the Rosetta Stone is where you go to get the answer to the great mystery of life. The Rosetta Stone in the Obama budget Mr. Henninger finds is on page 5 of the budget. This, I think, provides the clue to why all of these negative policies are being introduced into the budget at this time.

Let me quote from page 5 of the Federal budget. He is referring to the amount of income the top 1 percent of earners in our country makes:

While middle-class families have been playing by the rules, living up to their responsibilities as neighbors and citizens, those at the commanding heights of our economy have not.

Prudent investments in education, clean energy, health care and infrastructure were sacrificed for huge tax cuts for the wealthy and well-connected.

There's nothing wrong with making money, but there is something wrong when we allow the playing field to be tilted so far in the favor of so few. . . . It's a legacy of irresponsibility, and it is our duty to change it.

I think what Mr. Henninger has found in the Obama budget is the rationale for these paradoxical tax provisions. It is not a matter of helping families or supporting small businesses to create more jobs or helping the economy grow out of the recession; rather, this is all being done to redistribute the wealth in the country because it is alleged that the people at the top end of our economy are making more money than they should.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators have 2 minutes.

Mr. KYL. The Senator from Tennessee can close after I finish my point.

The point is, this is not the purpose of tax policy. The purpose of tax policy

should be to raise the amount of money we need, and need legitimately, to run the Federal Government, and do so as fairly as possible.

As they point out here, while the top 1 percent of earners in our country has earned 22 percent of the income, they pay 40 percent of the Federal taxes. The people who would get the brunt of the tax—those making above \$200,000—pay 60 percent of the Federal income taxes in America. One wonders why a group that pays 60 percent of the taxes already and only comprises 2 percent of our population is being unfairly treated. As a result of the Bush tax policy, they are actually paying a higher percentage of income taxes than they did before the Bush tax cuts went into effect. I think maybe that is the answer to the question. If so, it is very distressing.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator. I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds to conclude.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, before his conclusion, I ask unanimous consent to have the op-ed I referred to be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 12, 2009]

THE OBAMA ROSETTA STONE

(By Daniel Henninger)

Barack Obama has written two famous, widely read books of autobiography—"Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope." Let me introduce his third, a book that will touch everyone's life: "A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America's Promise. The President's Budget and Fiscal Preview" (Government Printing Office, 141 pages, \$26; free on the Web). This is the U.S. budget for laymen, and it's a must read.

Turn immediately to page 11. There sits a chart called FIGURE 9. This is the Rosetta Stone to the presidential mind of Barack Obama. Memorize Figure 9, and you will never be confused. Not happy, perhaps, but not confused.

One finds many charts in a federal budget, most attributed to such deep mines of data as the Census Bureau or the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The one on page 11 is attributed to "Piketty and Saez."

Either you know instantly what "Piketty and Saez" means, or you don't. If you do, you spent the past two years working to get Barack Obama into the White House. If you don't, their posse has a six-week head start on you.

Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, French economists, are rock stars of the intellectual left. Their specialty is "earnings inequality" and "wealth concentration."

Messrs. Piketty and Saez have produced the most politically potent squiggle along an axis since Arthur Laffer drew his famous curve on a napkin in the mid-1970s. Laffer's was an economic argument for lowering tax rates for everyone. Piketty-Saez is a moral argument for raising taxes on the rich.

As described in Mr. Obama's budget, these two economists have shown that by the end of 2004, the top 1% of taxpayers "took home" more than 22% of total national income. This trend, Fig. 9 notes, began during the Reagan presidency, skyrocketed through the Clinton years, dipped after George Bush beat

Al Gore, then marched upward. Widening its own definition of money-grubbers, the budget says the top 10% of households "held" 70% of total wealth.

Alan Reynolds of the Cato Institute criticized the Piketty-Saez study on these pages in October 2007. Whatever its merits, their "Top 1%" chart has become a totemic obsession in progressive policy circles.

Turn to page five of Mr. Obama's federal budget, and one may read these commentaries on the top 1% datum:

"While middle-class families have been playing by the rules, living up to their responsibilities as neighbors and citizens, those at commanding heights of our economy have not."

"Prudent investments in education, clean energy, health care and infrastructure were sacrificed for huge tax cuts for the wealthy and well-connected."

"There's nothing wrong with making money, but there is something wrong when we allow the playing field to be tilted so far in the favor of so few. . . . It's a legacy of irresponsibility, and it is our duty to change it."

Mr. Obama made clear in the campaign his intention to raise taxes on this income class by letting the Bush tax cuts expire. What is becoming clearer as his presidency unfolds is that something deeper is underway here than merely using higher taxes to fund his policy goals in health, education and energy.

The "top 1%" isn't just going to pay for these policies. Many of them would assent to that. The rancorous language used to describe these taxpayers makes it clear that as a matter of public policy they will be made to "pay for" the fact of their wealth—no matter how many of them worked honestly and honorably to produce it. No Democratic president in 60 years has been this explicit.

Complaints have emerged recently, on the right and left, that the \$787 billion stimulus bill will produce less growth and jobs than planned because too much of it goes to social programs and transfer payments, or "weak" Keynesian stimulus. The administration's Romer-Bernstein study on the stimulus estimated by the end of next year it would increase jobs by 3.6 million and GDP by 3.7%.

One of the first technical examinations of the Romer-Bernstein projections has been released by Hoover Institution economists John Cogan and John Taylor, and German economists Tobias Cwik and Volker Wieland. They conclude that the growth and jobs stimulus will be only one-sixth what the administration predicts. In part, this is because people anticipate that the spending burst will have to be financed by higher taxes and so will spend less than anticipated.

New York's Mike Bloomberg, mayor of an economically damaged city, has noted the pointlessness of raising taxes on the rich when their wealth is plummeting, or of eliminating the charitable deduction for people who have less to give anyway.

True but irrelevant. Mayor Bloomberg should read the Obama budget chapter, "Inheriting a Legacy of Misplaced Priorities." The economy as most people understand it was a second-order concern of the stimulus strategy. The primary goal is a massive reflowing of "wealth" from the top toward the bottom, to stop the moral failure they see in the budget's "Top One Percent of Earners" chart.

The White House says its goal is simple "fairness." That may be, as they understand fairness. But Figure 9 makes it clear that for the top earners, there will be blood. This presidency is going to be an act of retribution. In the words of the third book from Mr. Obama, "It is our duty to change it."

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I hope all of us in the Chamber understand that people are hurting, and we

want to see jobs and see the economy moving again. I think our point is that the lessons of history show that raising taxes doesn't help create new jobs. Now is not the time to change inequities in the Tax Code. Now is the time to create new jobs and for people to have more money in their pockets.

We would like to join with the President in focusing attention on fixing the banks and getting credit flowing again in the same way President Eisenhower did when he said: I will go to Korea and concentrate my attention on this job until it is honorably done.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed as in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HALABJA ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, it was exactly 21 years ago today that Saddam Hussein perpetrated one of modern history's most barbaric crimes. On the morning of March 16, 1988, the Iraqi Air Force dropped chemical weapons on Halabja, a Kurdish city in northeastern Iraq. Over the course of 3 days, tens of thousands of victims were exposed to mustard gas—which burns, mutates DNA, and causes malformations and cancer—as well as sarin gas—which can kill, paralyze, and cause lasting neurological damage—among other deadly chemical agents. Over the course of 3 days of bombing, it is believed that at least 5,000 civilians were murdered in Halabja.

The attack on Halabja was not the only instance in which the former Iraqi regime committed mass murder with chemical weapons. On the contrary, it was just one event in a large-scale campaign against the Iraqi Kurds called the Anfal, led by Saddam and his henchman, Ali Hassal Al Majid, also known as “chemical Ali.”

For 18 months between 1987 and 1988, it is estimated that Saddam's forces destroyed several thousand Iraqi Kurdish villages and murdered approximately 100,000 Iraqi Kurds, the majority of them unarmed civilians. At least 40 chemical weapon attacks have been documented—the first time in human history that a government has used weapons of mass destruction against its own citizens.

In her Pulitzer prize-winning book, “A Problem From Hell,” Samantha Power describes the assault on Halabja. It is a chilling account. The chemical weapons were dropped from aircraft that flew low over the city. In Samantha Power's words:

Many families tumbled into primitive air raid shelters they had built outside their homes. When the gases seeped through the cracks, they poured out into the streets in a panic.

There, they found friends and family members frozen in time like a modern version of Pompeii. Slumped a few yards behind a baby carriage, caught permanently holding the hand of a loved one or shielding a child from the poisoned air, or calmly collapsed behind a car steering wheel. Not everyone who was exposed died instantly. Some of those who inhaled the chemicals continued to stumble around town, blinded by the gas, giggling uncontrollably, or, because their nerves were malfunctioning, buckling at the knees.

On the anniversary of this horrific attack on Halabja, I urge my colleagues to pause and reflect on the lessons it teaches us.

What happened in Halabja should remind us that there is, unfortunately, such a thing as evil in the world, and that we in the United States not only protect our security but uphold our most cherished humanitarian values when we fight against it.

Halabja should also remind us that there are leaders in the world whose conduct is unconstrained by the most basic rules of humanity, whose only interest is their own power, and who are willing to do anything necessary—no matter how unspeakable or cruel—to perpetuate their power.

Halabja should remind us of the extraordinary danger posed by rogue states that possess weapons of mass destruction, and why we and our allies must be prepared to take extraordinary measures to prevent the world's most dangerous regimes from getting the world's most dangerous armaments.

Finally, Halabja should also remind us that despite the many mistakes and missteps the Bush administration made in the course of the war in Iraq, all who value human rights should be deeply grateful that Saddam Hussein and his terrible regime are gone and now consigned to the dustbin of history. If anyone doubts the world is a better, safer place with Saddam gone, they need only look to the history of what happened on this day 21 years ago in Halabja.

Two decades ago, the Kurdish-inhabited regions of Iraq were decimated and depopulated by one of the 20th century's most vicious and tyrannical despots. Fortunately, the story does not end there. Today, thanks in no small part to the protection provided by the United States, the Kurds of Iraq have rebuilt and their region is flourishing. The great Kurdish cities of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk are the safest in Iraq today, and they are booming economically. The Kurdish people have emerged from the yoke of tyranny to become some of America's best and most loyal allies anywhere in the world.

The leaders of the Kurdistan Regional Government still face challenges. They need to pursue further political reform and economic liberalization. They must fight corruption, and they must continue to work with the

democratically elected Government in Baghdad to ensure that disputes over contested territory in northern Iraq, including in the city of Kirkuk, are resolved peacefully and not through violence. And I am confident they will.

Indeed, in a remarkable—I would say miraculous—turn of history, 21 years after the atrocity of Halabja, the Kurds of Iraq have at least assumed their rightful role in shaping the future of the great country of which they are a part. Today, the Kurds of Iraq enjoy the same rights and privileges as every other Iraqi citizen, and their representatives sit in a democratically elected Parliament in Baghdad.

Perhaps in the most miraculous of all turn of events and one of the great historical justices of our time, Saddam Hussein, that evil tyrant who ordered the mass murders of tens of thousands of Kurds, has been replaced as President of Iraq by a great Kurdish Iraqi patriot, a freedom fighter and a great friend of the United States, Jalal Talabani. That is something the survivors of Halabja 21 years ago could never possibly have imagined.

As we pause to remember the victims of Halabja today, we should also give thanks to the extraordinary progress that has been achieved since that terrible day 21 years ago—progress that has been made possible through the courage and sacrifice of Kurds, Iraqis, and Americans alike.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak on the pending business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, the American people should pay very close attention this week. We are going to have on the floor what the majority leader calls a “noncontroversial” bill; a noncontroversial bill, in that we are going to take 3 million acres and deem it untouchable for further energy for this country; noncontroversial in that we are going to spend—in mandatory spending yearly from now on out—\$900 million a year on things you will never see the benefit of; noncontroversial in terms of taking specific areas with known, proven oil and gas reserves—300 million by the Department of the Interior's estimation in one field alone—to the tune of 300 million barrels of oil and 13 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Yet it is noncontroversial.

The other thing we should be aware of is that throughout this omnibus lands bill there are 150 different individual bills, 50 of which never had a hearing in the House—they were voted

on in the Senate in committee but most had never had a hearing—and we are going to step all over private property rights in this Nation. We are not going to do it directly, we are going to do it through laws that we refer to in this omnibus package that allows the bureaucracy—the faceless bureaucracy—to now utilize portions of pre-existing acts to take land by eminent domain.

You are going to hear: Well, that is a small portion. It is specifically prevented in certain portions of the bill. They do say that. But they do not obviate the law. In this omnibus bill are 70 or 80 bills that I would happily pass, because I don't think they have a profound negative impact on our future. But there are 70 or 80 of the bills which I think have a profound negative impact on the future, and I readily admit to trying to stop this bill in the past. I will put forward that I will do everything in my power as an individual Senator to, if not stop it, slow it down so that the American people will actually know every aspect of everything that is in this bill.

This bill is over 2,000 pages. There has never been one amendment. There has never been one amendment allowed on the Senate floor to alter this bill. So I look forward to a debate. I look forward to an open amendment process that does not allow veto by the other side of what we want to try to amend and when we want to try to amend it. But I pledge to use every parliamentary tactic I have at my disposal to defend the right to amend this bill.

Some may say: Well, you have a lost cause. Why don't you give it up, Senator COBURN, and let them have it. They are going to win. The reason we shouldn't let them win on this—although there are good things in this bill—is because we are setting a precedent with a very weak foundation underneath us for our future energy needs. Recently, in the last 6 weeks, we had a Federal judge in Utah abandon and prohibit energy exploration because it was close to a wilderness area. We have had the Department of the Interior rescind energy exploration permits that were duly granted under a full and proper process because it was not environmentally acceptable.

What is not acceptable is to deny the fact that even if we get to a totally green energy source, it is going to take us 20 years to do it. What is not acceptable is to continue to send our hard-earned dollars out of this country when in fact we could provide that same energy without sending those dollars out of this country and increase our own economic base and freedom and prosperity.

I look forward to the debate. I plan on voting no on the motion to proceed, and I plan on using every tool I can to delay and obstruct this piece of legislation because it is not in the best long-term interest of our country.

A bill that is 150 bills or 160 bills comes to the floor with many people as

proponents. The question Americans ought to ask their Senator is: Even though you get something for us, is this a good deal for us? Is this something with which we want to bless the other 149 bills throughout this mega, omnibus lands bill? Do you get something that is good for the country as a whole, that is good for the country in the long term, that benefits the next two generations; do we do so in a way that is prudent, efficient, effective, and manageable? The answer to that question is no. It is no today, it is going to be no tomorrow, and it will be no after we have done this and look back on it 10 years from now.

We live in a make-believe world where we think we can have our cake and eat it too. We can't. The fact is we are tremendously reliant on carbon sources of energy. We need to quit abandoning our own sources until we can be carbon free. This bill takes us a long way toward taking off multiple areas of both potential and proven reserves of natural gas, geothermal, and oil which we should be utilizing for our own benefit and our own future.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise today to speak in favor of cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, which is the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act. This is being used as a vehicle for the omnibus public lands package.

I think it is probably safe to say that none of us had hoped to be voting on this package here in the Senate again, but it has become clear that despite procedural obstacles this package has broad bipartisan support on both sides of the Hill and should become law, and that is why we are back yet again.

Although each individual bill in this package is not the kind of thing that perhaps makes national headlines, as a whole it is important enough to justify the time this body has committed to it, and I appreciate the majority leader bringing this back, and I appreciate the cooperation of my chairman, Senator BINGAMAN, as we work to advance the very important provisions that are contained in this omnibus public lands package.

In the case of the Energy Committee, this package, along with a similar package that was passed by the Senate last spring, represents almost 2 years' worth of hearings, negotiations, and business meetings on the many facets of these public lands issues. This package contains over 160 public lands bills, the vast majority of which went through the regular committee process and then sat individually on the Senate calendar at the end of last session.

Now, clearly, when you have a package that is comprised of this many bills—160 different public lands bills—it does a great deal; it covers a great many things. It covers the full range of the committee's public lands jurisdiction, whether it be from small boundary adjustments and land exchanges to large wilderness designations. There will be some who will suggest that the sheer number of bills that is contained in this package is a bad thing and that somehow or other this is new; it is unprecedented. But for those of us who come from western States, which contain large amounts of public lands—and in my State of Alaska about 1 percent of our lands are privately held, everything else is Federal, or State, or part of the native claims settlements—public land is an important aspect of how we operate within our respective States. We understand that legislation, such as that contained in this package, is necessary to the day-to-day functioning of the western economy.

I said during the first debate of this bill when it was before the Senate that in the West simple real estate transactions that are taken for granted in the East often literally take an act of Congress. And that is what we are here doing today. It is taking an act of Congress. This bill protects some of our natural landscape and historical treasures.

Now, there are some who oppose such protections, claiming that we are threatening access to our Nation's resources. But I do not believe that this is an either/or situation. We as a nation can maximize the development of our domestic energy and mineral resources while at the same time protecting our Nation's other natural treasures and wilderness. In fact, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service have certified in testimony, in response to questions, that none of the wilderness proposed in this legislation will negatively impact on the availability of oil, gas, or national energy corridors.

There is one section I should mention that does restrict oil and gas development in Wyoming, but as my colleague from Wyoming has mentioned, it is fully supported by their State delegation and their Governor. Almost all of the lands in this bill are already federally managed lands, most to be designated as wilderness, are either within the Federal parks or have been managed with restrictions, such as wilderness study areas or roadless areas. So in that case a designation as Federal wilderness does not further restrict use beyond what has been in place for quite some time.

On the other hand, this bill actually transfers 23,226 acres of Federal lands to private and State sectors through conveyance, exchange, or sale. The bill does authorize the expenditure of funds, but each of those is dependent on future appropriations that depend on the oversight provided by the appropriations committees and the Presidential budget request.

I think it is fair to say that this process is not my preferred method for passing legislation—putting multiple measures in an omnibus bill—but I believe that overall this package will improve our Nation's management of its public lands and its parks and will be a long-term benefit for our Nation. Therefore, I respectfully request my fellow Members support the passage of this omnibus legislation.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I wish to briefly begin discussion in the Senate about the President's budget that has been submitted to the Congress. We have had hearings under Chairman CONRAD, KENT CONRAD. His committee has had excellent hearings. We have had some good discussions. We have had some important witnesses, and we have been talking about some very important matters.

I wish to say now that I think the American people and the Members of the Senate need to get focused on the fact that the budget is not a good budget. The budget proposed by the President presents unsustainable spending, tax increases, and debt. It is just that way. It is right here in the book and the numbers cannot be changed. People can talk and spin any way they would like to, but if you look at these numbers, it is a chilling proposal for America that cannot be sustained.

One of the things the President promised, I think in his State of the Union and in his budget, was that we would have an honest budget and there would not be gimmicks in it. There have been, over the years, quite a number of times when Republicans and Democrats have put gimmicks into the budget. I would say I do not think this one is any better than the past. In fact, I think it is probably worse, maybe considerably worse. The budget, entitled "A New Era of Responsibility, Renewing America's Promise," says on page 43, the conclusion of the introductory summary:

The budget itself does not use budget gimmicks or accounting sleights of hand to hide our plans or the status of our economy. It is forthright in the challenges we face and the sacrifices we must make.

I do not think that is a fair statement of some of the things in here. We will be talking about some of the concerns as we go on. Fundamentally, the budget, as proposed, presents an overly rosy economic forecast. In fact, the numbers do not correspond with the best numbers we have on the economy from the Blue Chip indicator. That is

the top 51 economists in the country. It is considered the gold standard of economic forecasting that we should have used or been close to. The consensus view of the Blue Chip economists—why is this important? It is important because if you are projecting an overly healthy economy, you are projecting more revenue into the Treasury than you are actually going to receive. That is the big deal.

In a budget you assume certain things. If it assumes a level of growth that is too high or a level of unemployment that is lower than we can reasonably expect, then it provides the Government, for the purposes of a budget, the right to assume more income than we are going to have. The budget predicts our economic growth is going to only decline this year by 1.2 percent. That is what the budget has. It has these assumptions in it. That is how they reach the numbers they reach. According to the President's speeches, of course, we are facing one of the greatest economic crises in our Nation's history and things are not good at all. So I would say that is not a very honest evaluation.

The Blue Chip forecast shows that the economy will decline this year by 2.6 percent, more than twice that. That is hardly a depression, thank goodness. I like to see that number. It is not as bad as a lot of people have been predicting, 2.6, but it is way more negative than the President's budget.

Of the 51 economists who contributed to this forecast, only three said growth would decline less than 2 percent and not a single one said growth would only decline 1.2 percent. The closest that one came to 1.2 percent was one economist who predicted 1.4 percent, but the average was 2.6 percent and some, of course, higher than that. I do not think it is responsible. I think it is a gimmick or a misrepresentation to predict this economy will only contract by 1.2 percent in this year.

Let's look at unemployment. The administration forecasts it will only rise to 8.1 percent. That is in the budget. It says next year it has it coming down to 7.9 percent. That means more people are working, more people are paying taxes, we have less food stamps and less welfare and less unemployment insurance. It impacts how much money we are actually going to have to spend. So they are projecting 8.1 percent, which will be the peak of unemployment and that next year it will be lower, 7.9.

In the early 1980s, when President Reagan and one of President Obama's advisers, Paul Volcker—who was then head of the Federal Reserve—broke the back of 15 percent inflation, but it put us in a severe recession, unemployment hit 10.9 percent. We survived that without a \$800 billion stimulus bill, every penny of it going to the debt. But at any rate, they are predicting 8.1 percent on that.

What are these economists saying, the consensus? They project 9.2 percent

this year and 8.8 percent next year—not 7.9. That makes a big difference. This is a big difference. It matters as to whether we can reach the goal the President has stated of reducing the deficit in half by 2013. That is not a significant commitment, frankly. It, in itself, is a gimmick, and I will explain that too. Using the Blue Chip forecast, the deficit is going to be \$53 billion higher next year for fiscal year 2010 and about \$150 billion higher in 2013.

We will have opportunities as we go forward. We will have budget hearings this week, I think some more, and a markup in the Budget Committee next week. I think we have a good committee. Chairman CONRAD is asking some tough questions. He is not rubberstamping the administration's ideas, and I am proud of that because we are going to have to take some tough decisions.

Let me share, fundamentally, where we are in spending. After 9/11, the budget deficit was \$412 billion. That was one of the largest deficits we ever had. It fell in fiscal year 2007–2008 to \$161 billion. Last year, ending September of last year, that would be the 2008 budget—the previous one was 2007 at \$171—we came in at \$455 billion.

In 2004, a \$412 billion deficit; the \$455 billion deficit last year represented the highest deficits in our Nation's history. President Bush was roundly criticized for those and a good bit of that criticism was deserved, in my opinion.

Now that we have pumped another \$800 billion into the economy this year on top of the Wall Street bailout, that \$700 billion; on top of the \$200 billion that the Congressional Budget Office has scored that we pumped into Freddie and Fannie, those mortgage holding companies, we will total, hold your hat, this year when September 30 concludes, of this year, the estimate is projected to be \$1.8 trillion—not \$455 billion but \$1,800 billion.

They scored in that, I have to say, \$200 billion, about \$200 billion from the Wall Street bailout, \$200 billion for Freddie and Fannie, one-time expenditures. But they didn't score all the stimulus package. In fact, they have a portion of it scored as being spent this fiscal year and a portion of it the next and some the third year. Next year's fiscal situation, according to our own Congressional Budget Office, is that the deficit will be \$1.1 trillion.

I just wish to say to my colleagues and to those who might be listening outside this Chamber, it is not very hard to cut a budget deficit of \$1.8 trillion in half; \$1.8 trillion is almost four times the highest budget in the history of the Republic—unless perhaps during World War II we reached that deficit, I don't know. But certainly nothing has approached it in the last 30 or 40 years.

We are not doing well. Also, I have to tell you that the budget is a 10-year budget. All of us know that in the out-years it is hard to predict what is going to happen. I will just say, however, that President Obama's 10-year budget

projects that the deficit in the 10th year—you would think if we cut the annual deficit, the annual shortfall, if we cut it in half in 4 years, we would keep cutting it. He is projecting some \$500 billion in 2013, and that is certainly conceivable, if we do not continue spending. If we keep spending at the same level we have today, we would be well below \$500 billion, Lord willing and things continue the way we project them to continue.

But I will say in the 10th year under the budget, they are projecting \$712 billion in deficits. The lowest deficit they are projecting over the entire 10 years exceeds \$500 billion. As Senator GREGG said at the hearing with Secretary Geithner in the Budget Committee last week, that is not sustainable. I am just going to tell you, that is not sustainable. I think we all, as a nation, have to ask ourselves: Should we go forward with a budget that is composed of more taxes, more spending, and more debt?

I am worried about it. I know a lot of Members are worried about it. We believe, as a lot of people do, that we have to spend some money right now to help start this economy. I am prepared to support some of that too. But I think we have gone overboard. But regardless, if it was ended after 2 years, if there were the kind of projections in the future that show these programs to end and this excessive spending of today would not continue, that is one thing. But if we present a budget and ask this Congress to pass it, that calls for, over 10 years, each year having the highest deficits—higher than any deficits we have ever had before, ending up with a \$712 or \$720 billion deficit 20 years from now, I don't think we can support that.

It is time for a national discussion. As the President said, we need to talk about an honest evaluation of the challenges we face. And we face some tough challenges. But I have to tell you I am hoping CBO and the Blue Chip guys and the President are correct. I am hoping unemployment will not hit 10 percent.

I am hoping next year will be a better year. History tells us that is probably going to be the case. We have certainly had the Federal Reserve take some very aggressive action, most of it probably wise and needed.

We needed some stimulus from the Government. We certainly got that and more. It absolutely should give us some boost in the short run, although the Congressional Budget Office said the \$800 billion stimulus bill over 10 years would result in less growth of the economy over 10 years than if no bill at all was passed. But it will help us some in the short run. I am sure that is true. So we are going to hope this economy will come back. If we contain spending, if we watch the debt we are creating, we could end up with a lot better projection than this without a lot of pain because a big part of this debt increase is based on an increase of sizeable proportions in spending, more than we can sustain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 598 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 27, H.R. 146, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act.

Harry Reid, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Kay R. Hagan, Byron L. Dorgan, Richard Durbin, Carl Levin, Jeanne Shaheen, John F. Kerry, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jeff Bingaman, Roland W. Burris, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Jim Webb, Jack Reed, Bill Nelson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Akaka	Burr	Dorgan
Barrasso	Byrd	Durbin
Baucus	Cantwell	Enzi
Bayh	Cardin	Feingold
Begich	Carper	Feinstein
Bennet	Casey	Gillibrand
Bennett	Cochran	Hagan
Bingaman	Collins	Harkin
Bond	Conrad	Hatch
Boxer	Crapo	Inouye
Brown	Dodd	Johnson

Kaufman	Merkley	Snowe
Kerry	Mikulski	Specter
Klobuchar	Murkowski	Stabenow
Kohl	Murray	Tester
Kyl	Nelson (FL)	Udall (CO)
Landrieu	Nelson (NE)	Udall (NM)
Lautenberg	Pryor	Voinovich
Leahy	Reed	Warner
Levin	Reid	Webb
Lieberman	Risch	Whitehouse
Lincoln	Rockefeller	Wicker
Lugar	Sanders	Wyden
McCaskill	Schumer	
Menendez	Shaheen	

NAYS—21

Alexander	DeMint	Isakson
Brownback	Ensign	McCain
Bunning	Graham	McConnell
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Coburn	Gregg	Sessions
Corker	Hutchison	Shelby
Cornyn	Inhofe	Thune

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Kennedy	Vitter
Johanns	Martinez	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 21. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. STABENOW. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. KAUFMAN and Mr. ISAKSON pertaining to the introduction of S. 605 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. KAUFMAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AIG BONUSES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the recent decision by AIG to pay out \$165 million in bonuses. In a year when Main Street has suffered dearly, it is disappointing to see that the culture of greed on Wall Street continues to prevail.

Every American ought to be outraged. Every person who has ever paid

taxes ought to be outraged by AIG's decision to pay out such bonuses.

I returned from Wyoming this morning, and in the airport and on the plane, this is the topic people are talking about—taxpayers who are expecting value for their hard-earned taxpayer dollars, people who are asking about accountability, and people who are asking about oversight, saying: What in the world is going on back there in New York and in Washington?

While I understand that AIG has contractual obligations to fulfill, they also have an obligation to the American taxpayer, who now holds nearly 80 percent of the ownership of AIG stock.

To date, AIG has received nearly \$175 billion in taxpayer assistance. Similar to any publicly traded company, AIG must be accountable to shareholders, and the shareholders here are the American people.

This money was intended to serve as a liferaft to keep the company afloat. It was never intended to reward AIG employees for the trouble they have caused for our economy.

It is insulting to all taxpayers to see that their hard-earned money is being spent to save a company that doesn't appear to be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to save itself.

Unfortunately, the same irresponsible behavior that got AIG into this mess appears likely to keep them there. They say it is a contract, but if the American public owns 80 percent of the stock, the American taxpayers are the owners. Therefore, I say, show us these contracts that allow for this sort of retention bonus. The American public, the taxpayers, have a right to expect to see each and every one of these contracts.

You may say: Why is it the Treasury didn't demand that these contracts be renegotiated when we sent that first pile of money to AIG last year, the \$85 billion? The people of America get it, and now they say: Who is watching this? There has been a response letter written from the AIG CEO—the chairman and CEO—talking about this contractual agreement, this decision to pay these kinds of bonuses. He talks about his commitment to the future. He says: AIG hereby commits to use best efforts to reduce expected 2009 retention payments by at least—listen to this—30 percent. They are going to use their best efforts, so 2009 bonus payments are reduced by at least 30 percent.

Are we still talking about \$100 million in bonus payments for a company we continue to bail out? Any American taxpayer who reads that has to be offended by this approach to say we are going to pay bonuses again in 2009.

He goes on to say in his letter that they cannot attract and retain the best and the brightest talent to lead and to staff the AIG business if the employees believe their compensation is subject to continued and arbitrary adjustment by the U.S. Treasury. Arbitrary? Continued? Bring it out there and let the

owners of the company—the American people—make that decision. The American public will say they want accountability, oversight, and they want value for their taxpayer dollars. It is not what the American taxpayers are getting today from AIG.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAKEFIELD ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish today to speak in support of S. 408, legislation that I introduced along with my colleague, Senator INOUE, to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children, EMSC, Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services', HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration's, HRSA, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, MCHB. It is fitting that we do this in the year of the program's 25th anniversary.

The purpose of the EMSC Program is straightforward: to ensure state-of-the-art emergency medical care for ill or injured children and adolescents. Children have different medical needs than adults, and that presents special challenges for emergency and trauma care providers. These differences do not solely relate to medical supplies. They are also physiological and emotional. Not only will an adult-sized facemask not adequately administer oxygen to a child; but, for example, children's respiratory systems function differently, so they are more at risk for inflammation and infection; and they maintain fluid balances differently and thus are more prone to dehydration and death due to blood and fluid loss. Kids even may not be old enough or sufficiently cognizant to communicate what exactly is wrong with them or how they got hurt.

The EMSC Program has helped educate and train medical professionals to provide emergency care for children appropriately, because children are not just small adults.

The program has made extraordinary contributions in its 25 years—but disparities in children's emergency care still exist. According to the Institute of Medicine, IOM's 2006 report: "Emergency Care for Children: Growing

Pains," children account for nearly one-third of all emergency department visits, yet many hospitals are simply not prepared to handle pediatric patients. The IOM reported that only 6 percent of EDs in the United States have all of the necessary supplies to appropriately handle children's emergency care.

I am proud that my home State of Utah has played a special role in advancing the level of emergency medical care for children and teenagers. Working with the EMSC Program, Utah has participated in the Intermountain Regional Emergency Medical Services for Children Coordinating Council. The University of Utah is home to both the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center, NEDARC, and the Central Data Management Coordinating Center, CDMCC, for the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network, PECARN. Utah-based projects also helped pioneer the development of training materials on caring for special needs pediatric patients.

Each year, representatives of Utah's medical workforce come to visit and talk about the wonderful accomplishments and importance of the EMSC Program.

The IOM report also recommended doubling the EMSC Program budget over the next 5 years. Over the past several years, there has been a heightened interest in emergency preparedness and emergency services coordination. Despite this, there has been little concern with pediatric emergency readiness. The interest and financial support has gone to predominately support communications and coordination of local, State, and Federal emergency resources. The focus has been on the general population, on adult care; there is not a national strategy to address the complex emergency care needs of children. In light of the recent and current events related to national readiness, such as a potential influenza outbreak, bioterrorist attack, or natural disaster, children's readiness must also be acknowledged and funded.

The EMSC Program last expired in 2005. EMSC remains the only Federal program dedicated to examining the best ways to deliver various forms of care to children in emergency settings. Its reauthorization is long overdue.

The House passed its version of the EMSC reauthorization bill in April of last year by an overwhelming vote of 390 to 1; but, unfortunately, the Senate was not able to take up the bill before the 110th Congress adjourned. While I surely understand the uncertainties of the Senate's legislative agenda, I am disappointed we were unable to pass this very important reauthorization legislation to which there was no opposition.

S. 408 contains the same language that received such tremendous bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support its timely passage.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Even before the almost (daily) increase in a gallon of gas, I tried to drive as little as possible and carpool when possible. And, when driving, to bunch errand together in the same area of the city, so as to use less gasoline.

It is summer, now, and I try to use my car just once a week, for church on Sunday (buses do not run on Sunday, bike helmet causes helmet hair-do, which is not cool for church).

When I do purchase gas, it shocks me how much I pay. I did not budget for \$4+/gallon much. I worry that the effect of escalating petroleum prices on all sectors of our commerce and so, my life (along with the incredible rise in health care costs), may severely compromise my carefully-planned retirement budget. Some days I wonder what will become of me.

However, I keep on trying to live lightly, use Boise's bare-bones bus system, and ride my bike whenever and wherever I can. I know I do not look chic with my old-lady Schwinn with side baskets, but at my age, I try not to be too vain.

I have more time than employed people to use the bus and ride my bike to the grocery, appointments, and other places. Unfortunately, I also have osteoarthritis, so riding my bike or walking any distance from the bus stops has become more difficult.

Nonetheless, I try to do my part to stay green and influence others to do the same. I am a little old lady who conserves water in my landscape and in my house (e.g., bucket of water in the shower to catch the cold water while waiting for the shower to heat up, buying/installing water saving fixtures and appliances), recycles and pulls recyclables out of others' trash cans, has implemented several recycling programs, has a mostly xeric landscape, eschews plastic water bottles and paper cups, and is pure in heart.

I wish I had more answers on what will become of all of us. On dark days, I think our civilization is going to implode because we do not seem to be able to get smart enough fast enough to save ourselves. We knew—as individuals, as a government, as a society—that we would run out of fossil fuels and

would need alternative energy sources. They are at least 20 years out from being viable.

I pray that God will let me die before the last catastrophic days of all our lives. Thank you for a chance to tell my story and express my opinion.

FRANCES, Boise.

It saddens me greatly that we Idahoans, along with all Americans are suffering like we are at the hands of big government and environmentalists. It is clear and has been for years that we can and should be accessing our own resources in the United States. We should not be dependent on other countries for our oil. It is simple really. No matter how long it takes it needs to be done and we should not put it off another minute. I fear greatly that our next president (the one most likely to be elected) will overlook this issue and it will rapidly get worse.

The general public, average hard working Americans are struggling. If one does not make \$100,000 a year, it is getting impossible to live. I look at my own situation (which is not good) and then wonder how those less fortunate are even surviving?

My husband is a small partner on a dairy. I lost my job in November of last year due to an office closure and I am now working from home. Yet, there is hardly any work. As a travel agent, money only comes in when people travel. And that is not happening much anymore. We have never had much left over after bills were paid; however a year ago if my kids needed socks, I could at least buy a package. This year, I have to use one credit . . . card to pay another just to keep afloat. In fact, I have to put my groceries on credit which is pretty much run out. Do you not find that sad? I fear greatly what is ahead. Should not people who have good jobs like us be able to live without worrying about food or socks? We are \$500 away from bankruptcy.

And the stimulus package? Really, what kind of joke was that? First of all, we were lied to about when we would receive it direct deposited, so a good chunk of it went to NSF fees. Then the rest went to barely put a dent in catching up bills. Save it? Whose idea (dream) was that? I do not know a person who saved it.

I am behind in my car payments which I guess if I lose my car, I will not need to worry much about gas now, will I? I am sick, insecure, and sad about what I know is coming. We Americans cannot hold on much longer. Why is not someone doing anything about this? Maybe because most government officials make enough money to live comfortably right? I bet you can afford socks right? I bet you can buy food for your family without maxing a credit card to do so. Why cannot I?

Please . . . help us . . . and soon.

MICHELLE.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and for contacting us about how energy prices are having an impact on us.

My wife and I are both college graduates; she is a teacher and I am a chiropractor at Saint Alphonsus Hospital. We have sky-high student loans we pay on and as such watch our budget close. The rise in gas as well as the result in increased prices in food has caused us to ride our bikes to work; we live almost in Eagle and I ride the Greenbelt all the way into downtown Boise to try and save money. We have also planted a garden in hopes that it will save us some money at the store.

Our overall shopping is down, we do not buy clothing, or "extras" anymore and we just buy what we need and then save up for fun items once in a while. Our shopping has turned from new items to more and more

used or discount so I know that if others are feeling this way too the major retail stores will be suffering a major blow, no wonder why the economy is slow? We love to travel, but we do not as much now due to the cost of gas, food and airline tickets. In short, our way of life is being crippled and will continue to be so till we wake up and start using our own natural resources.

BRIAN and AMY, Boise.

I have watched to rising cost of fuel affect everyone I know here in the Treasure Valley. My parents own a small trucking company in Emmett, and employed two other drivers. When the price of diesel fuel hit over \$3.50 a gallon, my stepfather had to lay off the other two drivers just to keep him in business. Now the price of diesel is over \$4.80 a gallon, and my stepfather is going to have to go out of business. My parents are too young to retire, but too old to get into any other line of work. What are they going to do to survive? Could you ask your other Senators that please? I have a friend who lives in Emmett, but works in Nampa at Buy MPC loyally for the past 12 years. He bought a house in Emmett at this time, and was living the American dream. Today he is starting to consider letting his home go into foreclosure. This is because he cannot afford the gasoline to drive his car to work and back, and he is thinking of renting an apartment in Nampa to be closer to work. He does not drive some gas-guzzling SUV, but a fuel-efficient compact, and his fuel expense is still more than he can afford. Many of my friends are in a very similar situation. Are the CEOs of the oil companies going to come in and fix things so my parents and friends get to keep their jobs and their homes? Could you ask them that for me? I wonder how many CEOs of oil companies, and the big city politicians, would be willing to come out here to Idaho and work for \$11.00 an hour and make the commute from Emmett to Boise five days a week? Maybe they should, so that way they know pain many hard working Idahoan's are going through right now.

I have some ideas for you and other Senators to think about. Do any of you watch the Discovery Channel? I have seen many solutions to our energy needs on this channel. In Europe they are testing a Hydrogen Fusion Reactor. This thing is environmentally safe, produces no waste, and cannot melt down. It also produces a lot more power than the old nuclear reactors that we have now. Why not look at doing this later on down the road, instead of going nuclear? During the last energy crisis of the latter 70s and early 80s, my grandfather showed me a solution. He ran his 1960s Farmal tractor on alcohol, and all he had to do was make a minor adjustment to the carburetor. He did the same thing with his 65 Ford pick-up. If this worked so well with 1960s technology, why would not it work with all the technology that has come after it? I turn on the news, and all I hear politicians and CEOs saying how we either cannot do these things, or it would be more expensive if we did these things. Yet, I know from personal knowledge, and from what I see and hear on the Discovery Channels, that this just is not the truth. Maybe the time has come for Idaho to stop waiting on the federal government to do something and take the bull by the horns. Why cannot Idaho fix Idaho's energy needs? Thank you for your time in reading this, and thank you for asking for these stories.

AARON.

My husband and three children live in Nampa. We both work in Boise. It is a 25-mile commute one way every day in the morning five days a week for my husband and three times a week for me. Going to the

gas pump so often does not make one happy. I cannot believe the lack of common sense our government officials have concerning most issues but right now but this is the issue affecting my family the most.

We try to live our lives in a way that is self-sufficient, trying to lower our debt, trying to not buy on credit, growing a big garden, canning food, storing water and a supply of food for the family and living within our means. We live in a 67-year-old farmhouse because that was all we could afford. It is beat up and needs to be torn down but this is our home so this is the way we live. My husband does not make a lot of money. I only can work in the evenings when he is home for the children because we do not want someone else raising our children who do not care for them in the least. I stopped working full-time five years ago to stay home full-time with the children. We lost our health benefits then and have been without since then. With a daughter who has pretty serious asthma and allergies with her medications every month costing about \$300 to me needing a \$40,000 surgery to reconstruct my knee so the intense pain I live with everyday recedes, any jump in our tight budget puts a strain on us.

Where do the extra fuel costs come from in my budget? It comes out of the money we buy food with. I cut down on fresh fruits and vegetables. I cut down on cuts of meat. I cut down on dairy products. We live very meagerly. Not in the world's standards mind you, I have lived in a third world country for about 14 months. I know what poor is. The standards we are talking about are our American society.

Our government does not live within its means; it spends to oblivion. They borrow money like it is monopoly money. They are in our lives too much and should not be. Then the answer they come up with for becoming self-reliant with our oil demands and our energy consumption is: "cut down on your driving, buy a more fuel efficient car. Do not build any more refineries, do not drill our own oil, do not build nuclear, do not convert coal to oil, do not convert shale to oil and for sure do not drill in ANWR or off our own coasts. Let us lease 100-year leases to China and India and let them take our oil. They will do it right for sure. They are so honest with us and keep us in their minds to try to help us for sure." What is wrong with all of our government officials?

My family lived in Anchorage, Alaska, for the previous eight years before moving to Nampa. We have been debating this ANWR thing since before I can remember. What will it take to knock some common sense into these elected officials? I am tired of them acting like they know what is best for us. I am tired of the environmentalists ruling the world. I am tired of these elected officials playing politics when I am suffering with my family in what I can buy for their dinner.

Do they worry about not having the right amount of vegetables and fruits for their children so they can grow and be well? No, they do not. I do. And then they vote on issues that like carbon taxes and credits. What the heck is that all about? I am so tired of this. If I could have them in a room for five minutes, I would let them know how I feel. Get your stinking head out of Washington, DC and listen to the people who elected you. Stop taking American's independence and trampling it under your feet. I am more angry than you know.

Build refineries, build coal plants, drill for oil wherever we can. Get the Chinese and India off our coasts and let us drill. Build nuclear power plants, get the coal and shale and convert it. Stop importing oil from terrorists that control our economy when they want to. Let the Americans be great again.

Stop listening to the environmentalists and listen to us. My family suffers because you cannot do the right thing. Beware of continuing in your ways. Some of us have you in our sights and can vote differently. I cannot take this stupidity much longer. I wish you would all just stop fighting, go to your rooms on time out and then think about what you are doing wrong. That is the mother in me. Do the right thing. There, I think that is it for now.

JODI and AARON, *Nampa*.

We are writing in response to your letter asking for Idahoans to tell their story about how high fuel prices are affecting them. First I want to say that my family has been expecting this for some time now. We have known that cheap oil is a dream funded by government subsidies working with the big oil companies.

Oil is not an infinite resource. The U.S. peaked in oil production in the 70s and we believe that the world supply has peaked already and we are now facing the fact that supply cannot keep up with demand. We have actually four things which are coming to a head at this moment in time;

1. Peak Oil
2. Peak Food
3. Climate Change
4. Economic downturn/recession

Number 2 through 4 are all due to number 1—peak oil. The world is also experiencing a population problem which has come about from cheap oil resulting in cheap food. It seems like many are in denial about what is happening—and the longer we are in denial, the harder things are going to be.

We have bought a car which gets 45–50 mpg. We are conscious of when we drive, combining our errands etc. We are growing much of our own food and are sourcing and eating local food as much as possible. We are very involved with the "Local" movement as we believe that this is the one thing that is going to save us from a meltdown. We want small government as we do not believe that BIG government is in the people's best interest. The only thing that really seems to matter with BIG government is the bottom line of the corporations and the lobbyists.

People want change. They want better leadership and leaders with common sense. If we all have to forgo our SUV's and the "old American lifestyle" then so be it. We do not see much choice in the matter. We all need to conserve energy and create ways to have renewable energy. This planet cannot handle growth unchecked—which has been the premise up til now. It is going to be painful, but in the long run it is going to be better.

JAMES and LESLEE, *Buhl*.

We think we are lucky to be living in Idaho, as the people who live here are resourceful and strong.

JAMES.

The high gas prices are killing me when I buy gas. I own a rather old American car. It is a 1998 Pontiac Grand Am with a 3.1 liter V6. It is well cared for and gets pretty good gas mileage. 27 mpg around town and 30 mpg on the interstate. With 167,000 miles on the odometer I want to buy a new car but with gas prices around \$4 a gallon I hesitate. I want to buy an American car that can use ethanol. General Motors is in the news joining with the Ethanol maker from the 60 Minutes TV show to make Ethanol at \$1.00 a gallon from old tires, wood chips and garbage. I went to GM dealers and none make or sell flex fuel cars that can be bought in Brazil. My car runs good because I care for it so I guess I will need to wait a few more years to buy myself a new flex fuel car that can run on either gasoline or ethanol.

I try everything to save gas. My tires are well-inflated and the engine is tuned. I use a Chase Bank credit card that pays me 5% back on gasoline purchases. But the price of gas is still killing me.

In the short term, I believe that we in the U.S. need to pass laws to permit drilling for oil off the coast and also process oil shale into gasoline. We need to do something now or our country will come to a sudden stop.

DAN.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEBRA CLOW

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the work and career of Debra K. Clow of Sioux Falls, SD. Later this month, Debra will be retiring after nearly 37 years of Federal service in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Debra grew up in Yankton, SD. She attended the University of South Dakota at Springfield and started her career with the ROTC at USD in August 1972. She began her career with the VA as a fee base clerk in January 1974 and over the years worked impressively in various capacities, including development clerk, claims examiner, authorizer, training and quality coordinator, and coach. In recent years, she also advised and updated South Dakota congressional staffs with the detailed status of cases involving numerous veterans.

While working at the VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls, Debra served as the women's veterans coordinator. She served as coordinator from 1990 to 2008, witnessing the evolving scope of care and attention to the unique issues affecting women veterans. She has also attended numerous VA outreach events to explain VA benefits to veterans and their dependents.

I want to commend Debra for her many years of service to this Nation's veterans and their families. Her honorable service has been marked by a true sense of dedication and commitment to the men and women who have served our Nation in the Armed Forces. Countless veterans have benefitted from her dedicated work, much of which was done behind the scenes but always with the best interests of the veterans in mind. I applaud her great service, and I am sure that she is retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs with many rewarding experiences and memories.

I wish Debra and her husband, Jeff, all the best in retirement. As a life member of the Izaak Walton League of America, a 25-year member of the American Business Women's Association, and an avid gardener and dog lover, I am sure there are many endeavors awaiting her attention and effort. Again, I wish to recognize and commend Debra for her great service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO NOLAN B. GIERE

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I know my colleagues and the American people

agree we cannot adequately recognize the sacrifices of the men and women of what has been described as our "greatest generation"—the veterans of World War II. But today, I am going to try.

Today, I pay tribute to an obscure member of the greatest generation who has slipped the surly bounds to be with God—a simple farm boy, born and raised toiling on his father's farm in Hawley, MN, a youth who, in 1942, heard the calling of duty, honor, and country and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, a man and decorated airman who, after flying 35 combat missions over Europe, returned to the United States to restart his life in Missoula, MT.

Nolan B. Giere was a ball turret gunner in the B-24 Liberator—a simple staff sergeant upon his honorable discharge in 1945. Together with his wife Marge for almost 50 years, they lived in Missoula, MT, raised four children, and served as a foundation in the community, the business and church they both so loved.

On March 26, 2009, at the Western Montana Veterans Cemetery, a grateful Nation will place to rest another of the greatest generation—Nolan Giere—a simple farmer, a veteran, a local small businessman, and ultimately a loving father and husband. Nolan Giere epitomizes all that is great about America.

To Nolan Giere, and his wife Marge, we salute you. Godspeed.

Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Air Force Chief of Staff to Marjorie Giere, commemorating the life of her husband.

The information follows:

U.S. AIR FORCE,

Washington, DC, February 19, 2009.

Mrs. Marjorie H. Giere,
Missoula, MT.

DEAR MARJORIE: On March 26, 2009, at the Veterans Cemetery in Missoula, MT, a grateful nation will place to rest a fellow Airman. Volunteering to serve his country, your husband, Nolan Giere, flew 35 combat missions during World War II in the B-24 Liberator. Like others with him and after him, Nolan realized a greater duty, and did not hesitate to pick up the torch. We honor his life, his service, and his commitment to service and country.

On behalf of all Airmen, past and present, I commemorate the life of your husband, Staff Sergeant Nolan B. Giere, United States Army Air Corps, for his selfless contributions to his country.

Sincerely,

NORTON A. SCHWARTZ,
General, USAF, Chief of Staff.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1262. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1262. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 595. A bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 596. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish an award program to honor achievements in nanotechnology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 597. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 598. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve appliance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 600. A bill to protect public health and safety in the event that testing of nuclear weapons by the United States is resumed; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 601. A bill to establish the Weather Mitigation Research Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 602. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a survey to determine the level of compliance with national voluntary consensus standards and any barriers to achieving compliance with such standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 603. A bill to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, relating to representation in court and sanctions for violating such rule, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 604. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited by the Comptroller General of the United States and the manner in which such audits are reported, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 605. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to reinstate the uptick rule and effectively regulate abusive short selling activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 146

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

S. 182

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 213

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend title

49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier, and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices.

S. 277

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, *supra*.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to establish a Financial Markets Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 303

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 303, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

S. 307

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 307, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program and to exempt from the critical access hospital inpatient bed limitation the number of beds provided for certain veterans.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2012, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the "Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2009", and for other purposes.

S. 353

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 353, a bill to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of pediatric research consortia.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to ensure the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces while using expeditionary facilities, infrastructure, and equipment supporting United States military operations overseas.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 422

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 422, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 427

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 467, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish Encore Service Programs, Encore Fellowship Programs, and Silver Scholarship Programs, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the computation for part-time service under the Civil Service Retirement System.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, *supra*.

S. 483

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 483, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain.

S. 484

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

S. 527

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 527, a bill to amend the Clean

Air act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, and study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 572, a bill to provide for the issuance of a "forever stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that national health care reform should ensure that the health care needs of women and of all individuals in the United States are met.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution celebrating the 60th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 37, a bill calling on officials of the Government of Brazil

and the federal courts of Brazil to comply with the requirements of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to assist in the safe return of Sean Goldman to his father, David Goldman.

S. RES. 64

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 64, a resolution recognizing the need for the Environmental Protection Agency to end decades of delay and utilize existing authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to comprehensively regulate coal combustion waste and the need for the Tennessee Valley Authority to be a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 596. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish an award program to honor achievements in nanotechnology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join today with my colleague from Maine, Senator SNOWE, to introduce the Nanotechnology Innovation and Prize Competition Act of 2009.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Nanotechnology Caucus, and former Chair of the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation, I have worked long and hard to advance U.S. competitiveness in nanotechnology. Nanotech is a rapidly developing field that offers a wide range of benefits to the country. It can create jobs, expand the economy, and strengthen America's position as a global leader in technological innovation. At this time, when older industries are faltering and the economy is struggling, Congress must act to open new doors, help industry to move into new fields, and work to unlock new manufacturing potential.

Nanotechnology is redefining the global economy and delivering revolutionary change through an amazing array of technological innovations. There is virtually no industry that will not be improved by the advances that are possible with nanotechnology. But to unlock the full benefits of nanotechnology's capabilities, the Federal Government must do more to partner with our nation's innovative entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists. To that end, I am proposing, along with Senator SNOWE, legislation that will create an X-Prize competition in nanotechnology.

Many people have heard of the X-Prize, a recent and high-profile example of a prize competition like the one Sen. SNOWE and I are proposing today. The X-Prize was established in 1996 and set up a \$10 million prize fund for the

first team who could make civilian space flight a reality. The award was successfully claimed just eight years later. But that was not the only achievement the X-Prize accomplished. During that span of time, the \$10 million prize stimulated over \$100 million in research and development by the competitors.

Successful prize competitions are not limited to the X-Prize. We have seen the value of these kinds of competitions before. One of the most famous was the Orteig prize, which was to be awarded to the first person to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. Claimed, of course, by Charles Lindbergh in 1927, the Orteig prize stimulated private investment 16 times greater than the amount of the prize. Imagine what kind of explosion in investment and innovation we could achieve in nanotechnology with the competition we're proposing today.

By establishing this nanotechnology prize competition, the Federal Government will promote public-private cooperation to spur investment in key areas and help solve critical problems. The very first prize competition was, in fact, a Government sponsored competition that produced a revolutionary technological breakthrough. In 1714, the British Parliament established a prize for determining a ship's longitude at sea. At the time, the inability to accurately determine longitude was causing many ships to become lost. Solving this critical problem by creating a competition to find the answer paved the way to British naval superiority.

Today, other Government sponsored prize competitions are driving technological breakthroughs and successes. For example, the DARPA Grand Challenge and Urban Challenge have stimulated tremendous advances in remotely-controlled vehicle technology.

The Nanotechnology Innovation and Prize Competition Act is a vital tool to help ensure that public and private resources will be utilized in a coordinated way and will be devoted to solving the complex and pressing problems that America faces today. This bill will also spur technological investment and create jobs here at home. Through this prize competition, the government will be able to leverage its resources and focus the intellectual and economic capacity of our nation's best and brightest entrepreneurs on finding the big answers we need in the smallest of technologies—nanotechnology.

The Nanotechnology Innovation and Prize Competition Act creates four priority areas for the establishment of prize competitions: green nanotechnology, alternative energy applications, improvements in human health, and the commercialization of consumer products. In each of these areas, nanotechnology holds the promise of tremendous breakthroughs if the necessary resources are devoted. This competition will make sure we get started as soon as possible on finding those breakthroughs. We all know that the

competitive spirit is one of the strengths of our country. This bill will ignite that spirit in nanotech.

Again, I thank my colleague from Maine for her help and cooperation in introducing this bill. I also want to thank the Woodrow Wilson Center and the X-PRIZE Foundation for their work in helping to develop this bill. I look forward to working with the Commerce Committee, other members of the Congressional Nanotechnology Caucus, the Obama Administration, and the entire nanotech community to reauthorize the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act in the 111th Congress.

I urge all my colleagues to support innovation and promote entrepreneurial competition by cosponsoring this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 596

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Nanotechnology Innovation and Prize Competition Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. NANOTECHNOLOGY AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of Commerce shall, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, establish a program to award prizes to eligible persons described in subsection (b) for achievement in 1 or more of the following applications of nanotechnology:

(1) Improvement of the environment, consistent with the Twelve Principles of Green Chemistry of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) Development of alternative energy that has the potential to lessen the dependence of the United States on fossil fuels.

(3) Improvement of human health, consistent with regulations promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(4) Development of consumer products.

(b) ELIGIBLE PERSON.—An eligible person described in this subsection is—

(1) an individual who is—

(A) a citizen or legal resident of the United States; or

(B) a member of a group that includes citizens or legal residents of the United States; or

(2) an entity that is incorporated and maintains its primary place of business in the United States.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a board to administer the program established under subsection (a).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The board shall be composed of not less than 15 and not more than 21 members appointed by the President, of whom—

(A) not less than 1 shall—

(i) be a representative of the interests of academic, business, and nonprofit organizations; and

(ii) have expertise in—

(I) the field of nanotechnology; or

(II) administering award competitions; and

(B) not less than 1 shall be from each of—

(i) the Department of Energy;

(ii) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(iii) the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(iv) the National Institutes of Health of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(v) the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(vi) the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce; and

(vii) the National Science Foundation.

(d) AWARDS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the board established under subsection (c) may make awards under the program established under subsection (a) as follows:

(1) FINANCIAL PRIZE.—The board may hold a financial award competition and award a financial award in an amount determined before the commencement of the competition to the first competitor to meet such criteria as the board shall establish.

(2) RECOGNITION PRIZE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The board may recognize an eligible person for superlative achievement in 1 or more nanotechnology applications described in subsection (a).

(B) NO FINANCIAL REMUNERATION.—An award under this paragraph shall not include any financial remuneration.

(C) NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MEDAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—For each eligible person recognized under this paragraph, the board shall recommend to the Secretary of Commerce that the Secretary recommend to the President under section 16(b) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711) that the President award the National Technology and Innovation Medal established under section 16(a) of such Act to such eligible person.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) CONTRACTING.—The board established under subsection (c) may contract with a private organization to administer a financial award competition described in subsection (d)(1).

(2) SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.—A member of the board or any administering organization with which the board has a contract under paragraph (1) may solicit gifts from private and public entities to be used for a financial award under subsection (d)(1).

(3) LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION OF DONORS.—The board may allow a donor who is a private person described in paragraph (2) to participate in the determination of criteria for an award under subsection (d), but such donor may not solely determine the criteria for such award.

(4) NO ADVANTAGE FOR DONATION.—A donor who is a private person described in paragraph (2) shall not be entitled to any special consideration or advantage with respect to participation in a financial award competition under subsection (d)(1).

(f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Federal Government may not acquire an intellectual property right in any product or idea by virtue of the submission of such product or idea in any competition under subsection (d)(1).

(g) LIABILITY.—The board established under subsection (c) may require a competitor in a financial award competition under subsection (d)(1) to waive liability against the Federal Government for injuries and damages that result from participation in such competition.

(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year, the board established under subsection (c) shall submit to Congress a report on the program established under subsection (a).

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated sums for the program established under subsection (a) as follows:

(A) For administration of prize competitions under subsection (d), \$750,000 for each fiscal year.

(B) For the awarding of a financial prize award under subsection (d)(1), in addition to any amounts received under subsection (e)(2), \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 598. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve appliance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I join with my colleague and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator MURKOWSKI, in introducing S. 598, which is entitled the “Appliance Standards Improvement Act of 2009.”

This legislation would enhance our economic and energy security, it would save consumers money, and it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by strengthening two Federal programs that have a 20-year record of success; that is, the Department of Energy’s Appliance Standards Program and the joint DOE and EPA Energy Star Program.

The Department of Energy’s standards program establishes minimum energy efficiency standards for 35 products and phases out the manufacture and sale of the least efficient models for those products. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, ACEEE, estimates that national electricity use by 2020 will be nearly 16 percent less than it would have been without this standards program, which we have had in law now for many years.

The Energy Star Program is a voluntary program that promotes the development and sale of highly efficient appliances through labeling and marketing. Among its success stories is the dramatic increase in refrigerator efficiency and cost savings. The annual operating cost for Energy Star-qualified refrigerators has dropped from \$243 in the 1970s to \$46 today. The Department of Energy estimates that in 2006, Energy Star saved almost 5 percent of the Nation’s electricity demand, helped avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 25 million automobiles, and saved consumers more than \$14 billion.

Notwithstanding this record of success, further increases in the efficiency of appliances remains one of the most cost-effective strategies we can pursue to enhance our economic and energy security.

The bill I am introducing, along with Senator MURKOWSKI, would expand the Department of Energy’s program by establishing programs for affordable light fixtures and table and floor lamps. These products are found

throughout the Nation's homes and businesses, and improving their efficiency can have enormous benefits. ACEEE estimates that annual savings would build up to about 4 billion kilowatt hours by 2020, 750 megawatts in peak-demand savings, and about \$4 billion of savings to consumers for purchases through the year 2030.

The bill would further strengthen the standards program by allowing stakeholders to directly petition the Department of Energy to update its test procedures and standards and reduce bureaucratic delays. The bill would strengthen the Energy Star Program by adopting several recommendations made by the EPA inspector general and Consumer Reports, such as improving monitoring and enforcement of Energy Star compliance.

Last month, President Obama recognized the value and potential of the standards program to meet the Nation's economic and energy challenges. He noted that standards:

will avoid the use of tremendous amounts of energy; over the next 30 years, the savings will approximate the total amount of energy produced over a 2-year period by all of the coal-fired power plants in the Nation.

This bill is a good foundation on which to expand our energy efficiency efforts. It should be part of any comprehensive national energy legislation. I look forward to working with energy efficiency advocates, with industry, my Senate colleagues, and the administration to achieve the full potential for these programs and the full benefits of energy efficiency.

We will be holding a hearing, as you know, Madam President, on this bill this Thursday, March 19. I hope we will be able to include this legislation as part of a more comprehensive energy bill when we are able to report such a bill out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hopefully later this month.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 598

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Appliance Standards Improvement Act of 2009”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Test procedure petition process.
- Sec. 3. Energy Star program.
- Sec. 4. Petition for amended standards.
- Sec. 5. Portable light fixtures.
- Sec. 6. GU-24 base lamps.
- Sec. 7. Study of compliance with energy standards for appliances.
- Sec. 8. Study of direct current electricity supply in certain buildings.
- Sec. 9. Motor market assessment and commercial awareness program.

SEC. 2. TEST PROCEDURE PETITION PROCESS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCTS OTHER THAN AUTOMOBILES.—Section 323(b)(1) of the Energy

Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6293(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “amend” and inserting “publish in the Federal Register amended”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PETITIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any covered product, any person may petition the Secretary to conduct a rulemaking—

“(I) to prescribe a test procedure for the covered product; or

“(II) to amend the test procedures applicable to the covered product to more accurately or fully comply with paragraph (3).

“(ii) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the petition, publish the petition in the Federal Register; and

“(II) not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the petition, grant or deny the petition.

“(iii) BASIS.—The Secretary shall grant a petition if the Secretary finds that the petition contains evidence that, assuming no other evidence was considered, provides an adequate basis for determining that an amended test method would more accurately or fully comply with paragraph (3).

“(iv) EFFECT ON OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The granting of a petition by the Secretary under this subparagraph shall create no presumption with respect to the determination of the Secretary that the proposed test procedure meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

“(v) RULEMAKING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), not later than the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date of granting a petition, the Secretary shall publish an amended test method or a determination not to amend the test method.

“(II) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the period described in subclause (I) for 1 additional year.

“(III) DIRECT FINAL RULE.—The Secretary may adopt a consensus test procedure in accordance with the direct final rule procedure established under section 325(p)(4).”

(b) CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 343 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6314) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) AMENDMENT AND PETITION PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At least once every 7 years, the Secretary shall review test procedures for all covered equipment and—

“(i) publish in the Federal Register amended test procedures with respect to any covered equipment, if the Secretary determines that amended test procedures would more accurately or fully comply with paragraphs (2) and (3); or

“(ii) publish notice in the Federal Register of any determination not to amend a test procedure.

“(B) PETITIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any class or category of covered equipment, any person may petition the Secretary to conduct a rulemaking—

“(I) to prescribe a test procedure for the covered equipment; or

“(II) to amend the test procedures applicable to the covered equipment to more accurately or fully comply with paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(ii) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the petition, publish the petition in the Federal Register; and

“(II) not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the petition, grant or deny the petition.

“(iii) BASIS.—The Secretary shall grant a petition if the Secretary finds that the petition contains evidence that, assuming no other evidence was considered, provides an adequate basis for determining that an amended test method would more accurately promote energy or water use efficiency.

“(iv) EFFECT ON OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The granting of a petition by the Secretary under this paragraph shall create no presumption with respect to the determination of the Secretary that the proposed test procedure meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(v) RULEMAKING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), not later than the end of the 18-month period beginning on the date of granting a petition, the Secretary shall publish an amended test method or a determination not to amend the test method.

“(II) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the period described in subclause (I) for 1 additional year.

“(III) DIRECT FINAL RULE.—The Secretary may adopt a consensus test procedure in accordance with the direct final rule procedure established under section 325(p).”

(2) by striking subsection (c); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 3. ENERGY STAR PROGRAM.

(a) DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 324A(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Responsibilities” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Responsibilities”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) UPDATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary and the Administrator shall update the agreements described in paragraph (1), including agreements on provisions that provide—

“(A) a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of each agency that is based on the resources and areas of expertise of each agency;

“(B) a formal process for high-level decisionmaking that allows each agency to make specific programmatic decisions based on the program approaches of each agency;

“(C) a facilitated annual planning meeting that establishes strategic priorities and goals for the coming year;

“(D) a prescribed course of action to work through differences and disagreements;

“(E) a facilitated biannual program review conducted by a third-party that—

“(i) incorporates an assessment of program progress, partner acceptance, the achievement of program goals, and future strategic planning; and

“(ii) is evaluated by the Council on Environmental Quality, which shall appraise the findings in the review and work with the agencies to resolve any negative findings; and

“(F) a sunset date for the new agreement and a timetable for establishing future agreements based on priorities at that time.”

(b) DUTIES.—Section 324A(c) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8)(A) review each product category—

“(i) at least once every 3 years; or

“(ii) when market share for an Energy Star product category reaches 35 percent;

“(B) based on the review—

“(i) update and publish the Energy Star product criteria for the category; or

“(ii) publish a finding that no update is justified with the explanation for the finding; and

“(C) during the initial review for each product category, establish an alternative market share to trigger subsequent reviews, based on product-specific technology and market attributes;

“(9) require a demonstration of compliance with the Energy Star criteria by qualified products, except that—

“(A) the demonstration shall be conducted in accordance with appropriate methods determined for each product type by the Secretary or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (as appropriate), including—

“(i) third-party verification;

“(ii) third-party certification;

“(iii) purchase and testing of products from the market; or

“(iv) other verified testing and compliance approaches; and

“(B) the Secretary or Administrator may exempt specific types of products from the requirements of this subparagraph if the Secretary or Administrator finds that—

“(i) the benefits to the Energy Star program of verifying product performance are substantially exceeded by the burdens; or

“(ii) there are no benefits to the Energy Star program; and

“(10) develop and publish standardized building energy audit methods.”

(c) **FUNDING.**—Section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) to the Department of Energy \$25,000,000 for each fiscal year; and

“(2) to the Environmental Protection Agency \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year.”

SEC. 4. PETITION FOR AMENDED STANDARDS.

Section 325(n) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(n)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **NOTICE OF DECISION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of receiving a petition, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of, and explanation for, the decision of the Secretary to grant or deny the petition.

“(4) **NEW OR AMENDED STANDARDS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of granting a petition for new or amended standards, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register—

“(A) a final rule that contains the new or amended standards; or

“(B) a determination that no new or amended standards are necessary.”

SEC. 5. PORTABLE LIGHT FIXTURES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(67) **ART WORK LIGHT FIXTURE.**—The term ‘art work light fixture’ means a light fixture designed only to be mounted directly to an art work and for the purpose of illuminating that art work.

“(68) **LED LIGHT ENGINE.**—The term ‘LED light engine’ or ‘LED light engine with integral heat sink’ means a subsystem of an LED light fixture that—

“(A) includes 1 or more LED components, including—

“(i) an LED driver power source with electrical and mechanical interfaces; and

“(ii) an integral heat sink to provide thermal dissipation; and

“(B) may be designed to accept additional components that provide aesthetic, optical, and environmental control.

“(69) **LED LIGHT FIXTURE.**—The term ‘LED light fixture’ means a complete lighting unit consisting of—

“(A) an LED light source with 1 or more LED lamps or LED light engines; and

“(B) parts—

“(i) to distribute the light;

“(ii) to position and protect the light source; and

“(iii) to connect the light source to electrical power.

“(70) **LIGHT FIXTURE.**—The term ‘light fixture’ means a product designed to provide light that includes—

“(A) at least 1 lamp socket; and

“(B) parts—

“(i) to distribute the light;

“(ii) position and protect 1 or more lamps; and

“(iii) to connect 1 or more lamps to a power supply.

“(71) **PORTABLE LIGHT FIXTURE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘portable light fixture’ means a light fixture that has a flexible cord and an attachment plug for connection to a nominal 120-volt circuit that—

“(i) allows the user to relocate the product without any rewiring; and

“(ii) typically can be controlled with a switch located on the product or the power cord of the product.

“(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘portable light fixture’ does not include—

“(i) direct plug-in night lights, sun or heat lamps, medical or dental lights, portable electric hand lamps, signs or commercial advertising displays, photographic lamps, germicidal lamps, or light fixtures for marine use or for use in hazardous locations (as those terms are defined in ANSI/NFPA 70 of the National Electrical Code); or

“(ii) decorative lighting strings, decorative lighting outfits, or electric candles or candelabra without lamp shades that are covered by Underwriter Laboratories (UL) standard 588, ‘Seasonal and Holiday Decorative Products’.”

(b) **COVERAGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 322(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6292(a)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (20) as paragraph (21); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

“(20) Portable light fixtures.”

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 325(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(1)) is amended by striking “paragraph (19)” each place it appears in paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting “paragraph (21)”.

(c) **TEST PROCEDURES.**—Section 323(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6293(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(19) **LED FIXTURES AND LED LIGHT ENGINES.**—Test procedures for LED fixtures and LED light engines shall be based on Illuminating Engineering Society of North America test procedure LM-79, Approved Method for Electrical and Photometric Testing of Solid-State Lighting Devices.”

(d) **STANDARDS.**—Section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (ii) as subsection (kk); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (hh) the following:

“(ii) **PORTABLE LIGHT FIXTURES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), portable light fixtures manufactured on or after January 1, 2012, shall meet 1 or more of the following requirements:

“(A) Be a fluorescent light fixture that meets the requirements of the Energy Star Program for Residential Light Fixtures, Version 4.2.

“(B) Be equipped with only 1 or more GU-24 line-voltage sockets and not be rated for use with incandescent lamps of any type, as defined in ANSI standards.

“(C) Be an LED light fixture or a light fixture with an LED light engine and comply with the following minimum requirements:

“(i) Minimum light output: 200 lumens (initial).

“(ii) Minimum LED light engine efficacy: 40 lumens/watt installed in fixtures that meet the minimum light fixture efficacy of 29 lumens/watt or, alternatively, a minimum LED light engine efficacy of 60 lumens/watt for fixtures that do not meet the minimum light fixture efficacy of 29 lumens/watt.

“(iii) All portable fixtures shall have a minimum LED light fixture efficacy of 29 lumens/watt and a minimum LED light engine efficacy of 60 lumens/watt by January 1, 2016.

“(iv) Color Correlated Temperature (CCT): 2700K through 4200K.

“(v) Minimum Color Rendering Index (CRI): 75.

“(vi) Power factor equal to or greater than 0.70.

“(vii) Portable luminaries that have internal power supplies shall have zero standby power when the luminaire is turned off.

“(viii) LED light sources shall deliver at least 70 percent of initial lumens for at least 25,000 hours.

“(D)(i) Be equipped with an ANSI-designated E12, E17, or E26 screw-based socket and be prepackaged and sold together with 1 screw-based compact fluorescent lamp or screw-based LED lamp for each screw-based socket on the portable light fixture.

“(ii) The compact fluorescent or LED lamps prepackaged with the light fixture shall be fully compatible with any light fixture controls incorporated into the light fixture (for example, light fixtures with dimmers shall be packed with dimmable lamps).

“(iii) Compact fluorescent lamps prepackaged with light fixtures shall meet the requirements of the Energy Star Program for CFLs Version 4.0.

“(iv) Screw-based LED lamps shall comply with the minimum requirements described in subparagraph (C).

“(E) Be equipped with 1 or more single-ended, non-screw based halogen lamp sockets (line or low voltage), a dimmer control or high-low control, and be rated for a maximum of 100 watts.

“(2) **REVIEW.**—

“(A) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall review the criteria and standards established under paragraph (1) to determine if revised standards are technologically feasible and economically justified.

“(B) **COMPONENTS.**—The review shall include consideration of whether—

“(i) a separate compliance procedure is still needed for halogen fixtures described in subparagraph (E) and, if necessary, what an appropriate standard for halogen fixtures shall be;

“(ii) the specific technical criteria described in subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D)(iii) should be modified; and

“(iii) certain fixtures should be exempted from the light fixture efficacy standard as of January 1, 2016, because the fixtures are primarily decorative in nature (as defined by the Secretary) and, even if exempted, are likely to be sold in limited quantities.

“(C) **TIMING.**—

“(i) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than January 1, 2014, the Secretary shall publish amended standards, or a determination that

no amended standards are justified, under this subsection.

“(ii) STANDARDS.—Any standards under this subsection take effect on January 1, 2016.

“(3) ART WORK LIGHT FIXTURES.—Art work light fixtures manufactured on or after January 1, 2012, shall—

“(A) comply with paragraph (1); or

“(B)(i) contain only ANSI-designated E12 screw-based line-voltage sockets;

“(ii) have not more than 3 sockets;

“(iii) be controlled with an integral high/low switch;

“(iv) be rated for not more than 25 watts if fitted with 1 socket; and

“(v) be rated for not more than 15 watts per socket if fitted with 2 or 3 sockets.

“(4) EXCEPTION FROM PREEMPTION.—Notwithstanding section 327, Federal preemption shall not apply to a regulation concerning portable light fixtures adopted by the California Energy Commission on or before January 1, 2014.”

SEC. 6. GU-24 BASE LAMPS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291) (as amended by section 5(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(72) GU-24.—The term ‘GU-24’ means the designation of a lamp socket, based on a coding system by the International Electrotechnical Commission, under which—

“(A) ‘G’ indicates a holder and socket type with 2 or more projecting contacts, such as pins or posts;

“(B) ‘U’ distinguishes between lamp and holder designs of similar type that are not interchangeable due to electrical or mechanical requirements; and

“(C) 24 indicates the distance in millimeters between the electrical contact posts.

“(73) GU-24 ADAPTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘GU-24 Adaptor’ means a 1-piece device, pig-tail, wiring harness, or other such socket or base attachment that—

“(i) connects to a GU-24 socket on 1 end and provides a different type of socket or connection on the other end; and

“(ii) does not alter the voltage.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘GU-24 Adaptor’ does not include a fluorescent ballast with a GU-24 base.

“(74) GU-24 BASE LAMP.—‘GU-24 base lamp’ means a light bulb designed to fit in a GU-24 socket.”

(b) STANDARDS.—Section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295) (as amended by section 5(d)) is amended by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

“(jj) GU-24 BASE LAMPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A GU-24 base lamp shall not be an incandescent lamp as defined by ANSI.

“(2) GU-24 ADAPTORS.—GU-24 adaptors shall not adapt a GU-24 socket to any other line voltage socket.”

SEC. 7. STUDY OF COMPLIANCE WITH ENERGY STANDARDS FOR APPLIANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a study of the degree of compliance with energy standards for appliances, including an investigation of compliance rates and options for improving compliance, including enforcement.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study, including any recommendations.

SEC. 8. STUDY OF DIRECT CURRENT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN CERTAIN BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a study—

(1) of the costs and benefits (including significant energy efficiency, power quality, and other power grid, safety, and environmental benefits) of requiring high-quality, direct current electricity supply in certain buildings; and

(2) to determine, if the requirement described in paragraph (1) is imposed, what the policy and role of the Federal government should be in realizing those benefits.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study, including any recommendations.

SEC. 9. MOTOR MARKET ASSESSMENT AND COMMERCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) electric motor systems account for about half of the electricity used in the United States;

(2) electric motor energy use is determined by both the efficiency of the motor and the system in which the motor operates;

(3) Federal Government research on motor end use and efficiency opportunities is more than a decade old; and

(4) the Census Bureau has discontinued collection of data on motor and generator importation, manufacture, shipment, and sales.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) INTERESTED PARTIES.—The term “interested parties” includes—

(A) trade associations;

(B) motor manufacturers;

(C) motor end users;

(D) electric utilities; and

(E) individuals and entities that conduct energy efficiency programs.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with interested parties.

(c) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an assessment of electric motors and the electric motor market in the United States that shall—

(1) include important subsectors of the industrial and commercial electric motor market (as determined by the Secretary), including—

(A) the stock of motors and motor-driven equipment;

(B) efficiency categories of the motor population; and

(C) motor systems that use drives, servos, and other control technologies;

(2) characterize and estimate the opportunities for improvement in the energy efficiency of motor systems by market segment, including opportunities for—

(A) expanded use of drives, servos, and other control technologies;

(B) expanded use of process control, pumps, compressors, fans or blowers, and material handling components; and

(C) substitution of existing motor designs with existing and future advanced motor designs, including electronically commutated permanent magnet, interior permanent magnet, and switched reluctance motors; and

(3) develop an updated profile of motor system purchase and maintenance practices, including surveying the number of companies that have motor purchase and repair specifications, by company size, number of employees, and sales.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS; UPDATE.—Based on the assessment conducted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) develop—

(A) recommendations to update the detailed motor profile on a periodic basis;

(B) methods to estimate the energy savings and market penetration that is attributable

to the Save Energy Now Program of the Department; and

(C) recommendations for the Director of the Census Bureau on market surveys that should be undertaken in support of the motor system activities of the Department; and

(2) prepare an update to the Motor Master+ program of the Department.

(e) PROGRAM.—Based on the assessment, recommendations, and update required under subsections (c) and (d), the Secretary shall establish a proactive, national program targeted at motor end-users and delivered in cooperation with interested parties to increase awareness of—

(1) the energy and cost-saving opportunities in commercial and industrial facilities using higher efficiency electric motors;

(2) improvements in motor system procurement and management procedures in the selection of higher efficiency electric motors and motor-system components, including drives, controls, and driven equipment; and

(3) criteria for making decisions for new, replacement, or repair motor and motor system components.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator CARPER in introducing a bill that would provide Federal firefighters with the same disability protections that millions of local firefighters across the Nation currently enjoy. Federal firefighters put their lives on the line each day to protect some of our Nation's most critical assets and infrastructure, and these brave men and women deserve the same occupational safeguards and benefits as their colleagues at the local level.

Our Nation's Federal firefighters have some of the most hazardous jobs in the fire service, but the Federal Government does not presume that certain illnesses associated with firefighting are job-related. As a result, to qualify for disability retirement, a Federal firefighter who suffers from an occupational illness must specify the precise exposure that caused his or her illness—an almost insurmountable burden.

The Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009 would alleviate this burden by creating a rebuttable presumption that cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, and certain infectious diseases contracted by Federal firefighters are job-related for purposes of workers' compensation and disability retirement.

Such a presumption will not guarantee that Federal firefighters will receive any disability benefits. This legislation would simply switch the burden of proof from the sick Federal firefighter and his family to the Federal agency employing him.

Thus, as a practical matter, if the Federal employing agency can demonstrate that a firefighter's illness likely had another cause, then such an illness will not be considered job-related. For example, an agency that employs a firefighter who smokes and has contracted lung cancer would be able to rebut the presumption that the cancer was caused by firefighting. Therefore, I believe this legislation contains appropriate protections against those illnesses that may be caused by activities other than firefighting, providing agencies with a fair opportunity to challenge claims without requiring injured firefighters to meet the unreasonable burden of proof found in current law.

This legislation is important and long overdue. If enacted, it would relieve Federal fire service personnel of an unnecessary obstacle to receiving the badly needed benefits that they deserve when they fall ill as a result of their inherently hazardous work environment. Federal firefighters work at military installations, nuclear facilities, hospitals, and countless other types of Federal facilities. They are routinely exposed to toxic substances, biohazards, temperature extremes, and stress.

As a result, firefighters are far more likely to contract heart disease, lung disease and cancer than other workers. Indeed, a number of scientific studies have found that firefighters have a higher incidence of disease overall than the general population. For example, a 2006 study conducted by the University of Cincinnati found that exposure to soot and toxins creates an increased risk for various cancers among firefighters. Further, a 2007 Harvard study found that firefighters face a risk of death from heart attack up to 100 times higher when involved in fire suppression as compared to non-emergency duties.

It also would not be unprecedented to establish a presumption for Federal firefighters. Congress has already extended presumptive benefits to various groups, including Peace Corps volunteers, military veterans, and public safety officers.

Outside the Federal Government, 41 States have already enacted presumptive disability laws for their municipal firefighters. In Maine, for example, the State presumptive benefits law applies to heart, lung, and infectious diseases.

It is fundamentally unfair that firefighters employed by the Federal Government are not eligible for disability retirement for the same occupational diseases as their municipal counterparts. This disparity is especially glaring in instances where Federal firefighters work alongside municipal firefighters during mutual aid responses and are exposed to the same hazardous conditions, as was the case in the response to Hurricane Katrina.

If the Federal Government wants to be able to recruit and retain qualified firefighters, it must be able to offer a

benefits package that is competitive with the municipal sector, including having occupational illness covered by worker's compensation.

This legislation is supported by many of the fire service groups, such as the International Association of Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

The Federal Firefighters Fairness Act is a straightforward matter of equity and sound policy. I believe this bill merits the support of every Senator, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor. It is for these and other reasons that I urge my colleagues to support the Federal Firefighter Fairness Act of 2009.

By Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 605. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to reinstate the uptick rule and effectively regulate abusive short selling activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, the American people have lost literally trillions of dollars as a result of the meltdown of our financial markets. This is a disaster of monumental and unprecedented proportions.

Think of the retirees who have lost more than half their savings and who lie awake at night worrying about how they are going to make it. Think of the parents who can no longer afford to send their children to the college of their choice or even to college at all. Think of the business men and women who will cancel investments or lay off workers because they cannot raise capital—hopes crushed, dreams denied, plans canceled, opportunities lost.

We need to restore the strength of the financial markets. We need to rebuild the confidence in our economy and in our markets so we can restore those losses. We all look forward to the day when wealth and employment in America are growing again. There are many things we must do to make that happen.

Foremost, we must rescue, reform, and recapitalize our banking system. In the Judiciary Committee, we moved on March 5 to restore investor confidence by reporting S. 386, the Fraud and Enforcement Recovery Act. Chairman LEAHY, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator SCHUMER, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and I pressed this legislation forward because we needed to ensure that the Justice Department, the FBI, and other law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to find, prosecute, and jail those who have committed financial fraud.

Our markets will flourish again only when investors are confident that the market will be held accountable to the law. This is one step we must take.

I am here today to talk about another urgently needed piece of the

much larger project of restoring confidence in our capital markets: We must stop the artificial manipulation of stock prices. We must stop the abusive short selling of securities.

I am convinced that the SEC must restore the uptick rule and issue regulations that effectively ban abusive short selling. Abusive short selling is tantamount to fraud and market manipulation and must be stopped. The uptick rule must be restored now.

There is a growing consensus that the SEC must move quickly to reinstate the uptick rule. Everyone is talking about it. Everyone seems to support it. Everyone believes the SEC needs to put on the brakes and stop those who dump millions of shares they don't own to drive prices down. Abusive short selling amounts to gasoline on the fire for distressed stocks and distressed markets. Abusive short selling happens when traders and hedge funds sell stock shares they don't have and won't be able to deliver.

Let me make myself clear: The problem isn't short selling itself. Short selling can actually enhance market efficiency and provide the market with information it needs to set prices at appropriate levels. The problem is that under current rules, short sellers are allowed to sell stocks they haven't actually borrowed in advance of their short sale and with no uptick rule in place as a circuit breaker. This in turn frequently means they all too often simply fail to deliver the stocks they have supposedly sold. Abusive short sales expose sellers and those linked to their short sales to the risk that when settlement day arrives, the short seller won't have the necessary shares available. That harms the market and market participants, particularly when failure to deliver persists for substantial periods as statistics show they clearly have.

We have the opportunity to have the SEC become a can-do agency once more. Under the leadership of Chairwoman SHAPIRO, the SEC needs to move at a pace to protect investors and restore investor confidence.

I believe the SEC must impose at least two important changes. It must reestablish the uptick rule and it must establish a mandatory, marketwide, pre-borrow requirement to sell shares short.

As for the uptick rule, that rule held us in good stead for 70 years. It was first established in 1938 and the SEC eliminated it in July 2007. In my view—and I am not alone—it should never have been repealed. The uptick rule is especially helpful when the market is falling. It simply requires short sellers to take a breath and wait for an increase in price before continuing to sell shares short. Establishing a mandatory, marketwide pre-borrow requirement would simply require short sellers to demonstrate at the time of the sale that they have a legally enforceable right to deliver the shares of stock at the required delivery date. To permit short sellers to sell shares they

don't have turns our capital markets into gambling casinos where these "naked" short sellers profit if the price goes down and fail to deliver if the price doesn't. The time has come for that practice to stop.

I wrote to the SEC Chair Mary Shapiro on March 3 making these same points. I understand she testified before the Banking Committee in February and that she intends, as quickly as possible, to engage in a full review of the SEC's actions with respect to short selling, including an evaluation of why the uptick rule should be reinstated. I also understand the SEC is scheduled to meet soon to discuss ways to reform short selling practices.

We need quick action to restore investor confidence. That is why I, along with Senator ISAKSON of Georgia, am introducing a bill today that would direct the SEC to write regulations addressing abusive short sales. We believe that restoring the uptick rule is necessary, but not sufficient, to end abusive short selling.

Our bipartisan bill would direct the SEC to write regulations within 60 days that accomplish five things to end the abusive short selling. One: Reinstate the substance of that portion of its prior regulations that prohibited short sales that are not made on an increase in the price of the stock. This prevents short sellers from piling on declining stock, driving prices down.

Two: Require trades by short sellers of securities to yield priority and preference to transactions effected by long sellers of securities. This would require exchanges and other trading venues to execute the trades of long sellers instead of short sellers, all other things being equal.

Third: With the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, prohibit short sales of the securities of any financial institution unless the trade is effected at a price, in minimum lots specified by the Commission, at least 5 cents higher than the immediately preceding transaction in such securities. Our financial sector and financial stocks are in a fragile state and our taxpayers now hold substantial shares in many institutions. If the Treasury and the Fed believe they need additional protection in these times, this legislation permits it.

Four: Prohibit any person from selling securities short unless that person has at the time of the short sale a demonstrable legally enforceable right to deliver the securities at the required delivery date. Under current law, many short sellers fail to deliver. We must tighten up the rules.

Five: Require that all short sales settle in the same timeframe employed for long sales of the same securities. There is no reason short sellers should have 13 days to deliver shares when long sellers have only 3 days.

I look forward to hearing from Chair Shapiro soon about the conclusions of

her review and the actions the SEC intends to take to stop these harmful activities that are preventing our markets from returning to a sound footing. In the meantime, Senator ISAKSON and I believe the Senate should move forward with this legislation directing the SEC to take action now. In the end, I hope the SEC will move quickly on its own to take these actions urgently, and now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise first to commend the distinguished Senator from Delaware, Mr. KAUFMAN, on a very appropriate bill at a very appropriate time in our country. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

History teaches us good lessons and, as the Senator said, for 70 years, until July of 2007, the uptick rule served the American investor, the American banking industry, and the traders of America well, because it protected it from a very dangerous thing happening which happened beginning in September of last year. Everybody in this room will remember the markets of last fall. What happened is we hit some unsettling times. We in fact passed the TARP stabilization bill. The markets began to climb. I e-mailed Chris Cox, who was the then-Chair of the SEC, the position Mrs. Shapiro now holds. I sent him an e-mail begging him to please reinstate the uptick rule. They took a brief look at it, suspended it for a few days, and then let it stay. What happened was hedge funds and other traders coming in to cash in were taking the downward spiral of stocks and banks and financial institutions in the country and making money off the demise and the decline of those stocks, all because there was no protection so that they couldn't feed off a downward spiral. The uptick rule, as well explained by the Senator from Delaware, simply provides a cushion to discourage those who would exploit a dangerous and difficult market and make money at the expense of the American people.

Senator KAUFMAN has introduced a piece of legislation that is right for America, it is right for America's investors, and it is right for our stock market as it still languishes today somewhere down near what we hope is the bottom. One way to ensure that bottom exists is to stop rewarding those who would feed off of it and instead reinstate good discipline that ensures good practices and allows the market to restore itself back to a good equilibrium.

I commend Senator KAUFMAN on the introduction of the legislation. I am honored that he asked me to cosponsor it and I am proud to do so. I hope the Senate will expeditiously deal with it, not in the interests of Senator KAUFMAN or myself, but in the interests of the American people who are looking to us for answers in difficult times.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I am honored to have the Senator from Georgia join me. The uptick rule and short selling is not a partisan issue; it is a bipartisan issue. We can work together to get this right.

It is time to send a clear message to investors, to people who want to invest in our markets, that the markets are fair and they have an opportunity and they are going to get a chance at a level playing field.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 605

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

SECTION 1. REINSTATEMENT REQUIRED.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commission") shall—

(1) reinstate the substance of that portion of the regulations in effect on July 5, 2007, that prohibited short sales not effected on a plus tick;

(2) rescind rule 201 of regulation SHO, at section 242.201 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) require trades by short sellers of securities to yield priority and preference to transactions effected by long sellers of securities;

(4) with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, prohibit short sales of the securities of any financial institution, unless that trade is effected at a price (in minimum lots, as specified by the Commission) that is at least 5¢ higher than the immediately preceding transaction in such securities;

(5) adopt such rules and regulations, consistent with paragraphs (1) through (4), as necessary to prohibit any person from engaging in any conduct that artificially would create a plus tick or satisfy the price requirements set forth in the short sales regulations of the Commission; and

(6) take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to make the regulation of short sales by the Commission consistent with the requirements of this Act.

SEC. 2. MANDATORY SETTLEMENT PREPAREDNESS REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue regulations prohibiting any person from selling securities short, unless that person demonstrates, at the time of the sale, that such person possesses, at the time of the sale, a demonstrable, legally enforceable right to deliver the securities at the required delivery date.

SEC. 3. MANDATORY SETTLEMENT TIMES FOR SHORT SALES.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue regulations to require that all short sales settle on the same time frame employed for long sales of the same securities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and

Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in SC-4 of the Capitol.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Michael Gauthier, who is a National Park Service fellow working on the staff of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources this year, be granted the privilege of the floor for today and for the remainder of the Senate's consideration of H.R. 146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOINT REFERRAL

NOMINATION OF THOMAS L. STRICKLAND

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Thomas L. Strickland to be Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on March 12, 2009, be jointly referred to the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 146, the legislative vehicle for the lands package; and, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to the legislative vehicle for the lands package.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GARY LOCKE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY W. KIENITZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY, VICE JEFFREY SHANE, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGINA MCCARTHY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE JEFFREY R. HOLMSTEAD, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KIM N. WALLACE, OF TEXAS, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE KEVIN I. FROMER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEMETRIOS J. MARANTIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE PETER F. ALLGEIER, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

R. GIL KERLIKOWSKA, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, VICE JOHN P. WALTERS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

LADDA TAMMY DUCKWORTH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS), VICE LISETTE M. MONDELLO, RESIGNED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support for H. Res. 194 a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. For the last century March 8th has been a day for people to unite in their commitment to honor the women who courageously fight for gender equality and women's rights across the globe.

The course of women's history through the 20th and 21st centuries has been on an upward trajectory, and while we celebrate how far we have come, it is important to pause and reflect on the reality that women continue to face political and economic obstacles, discrimination, and violence all over the world.

While there are many who deserve our appreciation, I would like to recognize the women of Afghanistan who have begun to steadily chip at the steel grasp of patriarchy, and begun to fight for safety and justice.

Before 2003 the idea of a women's shelter in Afghanistan was unheard of, and domestic abuse victims who did seek protection from law enforcement were often thrown in jail or returned to their husbands, perpetuating a culture of silence around the practices of beating, torture, and forced marriage.

Now, shelters like the Women for Afghan Women in Kabul and the Afghan Women Skills Development Center provide protection, treatment, and legal services to women who might otherwise have resigned themselves to a life of quiet misery, or resorted to suicide.

These shelters, like others around the world, provide solace and safety for women with nowhere else to turn. They provide the basic hope of possibilities for those seeking a safe haven from abuse. Before these shelters existed many Afghan women could only dream of a life in their own control, and now they have hope.

I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for sponsoring this important resolution which allows us to stand and celebrate our common ideals with the 3 billion women across the globe in dignity and certitude that one day women will live free of discrimination and violence no matter where they were born.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J.
CREGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chaplain Father John J.

Cregan, as he is being honored by the Retired Irish Police Society with the "2009 James P Sweeney—Man of the Year Award." Father Cregan's service to police officers and firefighters who bravely serve our community continues to be an invaluable source of support, kindness and guidance for the women and men who bravely serve in the line of duty.

At a very young age, Father Cregan and his four sisters, Sister Theresine, Rita, Florence and the late Margaret were taught the importance of family, faith, heritage and service. Father Cregan's grandfather, born in Ireland, was a Cleveland police sergeant. His father, Joseph Cregan, served for many years as a Cleveland Police Lieutenant, and two of his nephews currently serve as Cleveland police officers. Father Cregan's mother, Florence Cregan, was a critical influence in shaping his wonderful sense of humor, his faith and his sense of compassion for others.

Father Cregan has served in parishes throughout our community, including Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph's Church, St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Angels, where he was appointed Pastor in 1987 and where he continues to serve today. Moreover, Father Cregan continues to serve as the Chaplain for the Cleveland Police and Fire, Greater Cleveland Police and Fire, Holy Name Society, Cleveland Office of the FBI, the Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society and the Anchor Club—roles he has held for more than forty years. He has also served as the Chaplain for the Retired Irish Police Society since 1988.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chaplain Father John J. Cregan, as he is named the 2009 John P. Sweeney "Man of the Year" by the Retired Irish Police Society. Father Cregan's warmth, concern, support and guidance continues to impact the lives of police officers and firefighters throughout our community. As he has for forty years, Father Cregan has been there with our safety forces to celebrate the happiest of times, and most significantly, he has stood with them in the most trying of times, offering strength, hope and faith to officers and their loved ones. Father Cregan continues to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout Greater Cleveland and today, we stand in gratitude and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LUCILLE HART

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one-hundredth birthday of Ms. Lucille Hart of Le Roy, Illinois. Ms. Hart joins the rank of centenarians after a fulfilling career in education and with the postal service. For fifteen years, she taught in Delavan, Illinois. She then became the school treasurer, a position she held for thirty more years. After

brief positions held at Caterpillar and the local post office, she retired and became an avid gardener. She continues to tend to her flowers and plants indoors during Illinois' harsh winters. Today, she is joined by her closest friends and family to celebrate.

In the last one hundred years, Ms. Hart has seen women granted the right to vote. She witnessed the United States in World War II. She watched a man walk on the moon. She can recall the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. She was born during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and has seen the White House change hands eighteen times. Ms. Hart knows what life was like before Blackberries, cell phones, the internet, computers, color television, microwaves, traffic lights, and bubble gum. In one hundred years, American life has changed drastically right before Ms. Hart's eyes.

Ms. Lucille Hart is an inspiration to us all. It is my honor to congratulate Ms. Hart's long life of achievement. May her health remain good and may she continue to inspire.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS PYTHIAN HOME

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Texas Pythian Home. The Home, called the "Castle on the Hill," is located in my district in the city of Weatherford, Texas.

The Texas Pythian Home began on March 1, 1909, as a home for widows and orphans of Knights of Pythias members. The Pythians, a fraternal order, made the decision to build the home in Weatherford following a donation of three hundred acres of land.

The main building housed orphaned children on the second floor. The basement was divided into apartments for widows with children. There were soon so many boys that it became necessary to build a boys-only dorm. The boys moved into their new dorm in 1914. In 1925, a girls-only dorm was built. In the early 1970s, widows moved to the completed retirement home in Greenville, Texas.

The Pythian Home School was designated an independent school district on August 1, 1910 and continued until 1972. In 1937, the last high school graduating class walked across the Pythian auditorium stage. It had been decided to send grades 6–12 to Weatherford Independent School District. Grades 1–5 continued to have classes at the Pythian Home until 1972.

As part of its effort to be self-sufficient, the Home had a large dairy operation for many years. Animals were raised to provide meat.

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

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

The Home also had its own garden and orchard. The staff and children kept busy maintaining all of the operations. A change in government regulations in 1972 limited these operations, so the dairy closed in 1976.

There were many changes through the years. The Texas Pythian Home is now the last one in existence. The Home, located on 164 acres, can house up to 62 children. The number of children in residence changes as the economy and family circumstances change.

The Pythian principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence continue to be the driving force behind the organization. The Home is here because it reaches out to those in need.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Texas Pythian Home on the 100th anniversary of its founding and to offer my sincere appreciation for the many contributions that its residents have made and continue to make to the city of Weatherford and the state of Texas.

REMEMBERING THE SLAUGHTER
IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, Twenty one years ago, on March 16, 1988, the Saddam Hussein regime committed one of modern history's most horrific crimes. The indiscriminate use of chemical weapons to destroy the town of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan led to the brutal slaughter of thousands of innocent men, women, and children and permanently debilitated many more. More than two decades after the massacre, the people of Halabja still suffer from the effects of that barbaric attack. Long-term effects include cancers, birth defects, neurological problems, miscarriages, infertility, and congenital malformations in children—all of which are disproportionately prevalent in the Halabja area—as well as irreparable damage to the environment. These serious medical and environmental problems continue to hinder the well-being and overall progress of those living in Halabja and the surrounding area.

Tragically, Halabja was not the only instance in which the former Iraqi regime used chemical weapons. Rather, it was but one event in a deliberate, large-scale campaign called the Anfal to exterminate the predominantly Kurdish inhabitants of Iraqi Kurdistan. The 1988 Anfal campaign resulted in the deaths of as many as 180,000 people. Iraqi forces used chemical and biological weapons against over 250 population centers from April 1987 to August 1988. Studies indicate that more than half of current inhabitants of Halabja were exposed to toxic chemical agents at the time of the attack.

On December 30, 2006, Saddam Hussein was hanged for the murder of 148 Shiite Arab citizens of Dujail, which is located in south-central Iraq. That case was taken up before the Anfal case, and it resulted in a death sentence. Because Iraqi law requires that a death sentence be carried out nearly immediately, Saddam's other crimes, including the Anfal genocide, never came to trial. The swiftness of Saddam's execution was an injustice to those that were brutally killed, maimed, or otherwise

damaged in the Anfal; put simply, these victims were denied their day in court. Many Kurds now fear that the world will never hear of the true extent of the Halabja atrocities—widely considered the heaviest use of chemical weapons against civilians in modern times. It is therefore imperative that the Anfal campaign, and the massacre of Halabja, be documented and remembered—and internationally recognized as a crime of genocide against the Kurdish people. But we should also do more. On the tragic anniversary of Halabja 1988, the world must not only remember the individuals who perished but also provide help to those that continue to suffer today. That would be an appropriate way for the world to bear witness to crimes that are among the ugliest the world has seen.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNUAL
WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of World Glaucoma Day, a global initiative created by the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Association to underscore the importance of getting screened for glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide. The day will be marked by awareness and educational events organized by eye care institutions and local patient support groups around the world.

Glaucoma afflicts 3 million Americans and some 75 million people worldwide. Glaucoma can strike anyone of any age. It affects all age groups, including infants, children, and the elderly. Congenital glaucoma and childhood glaucoma are serious pediatric medical problems. With early diagnosis and treatment, 90 percent of the blindness from glaucoma could have been avoided. World Glaucoma Day encourages all individuals, especially those with a high risk for developing the disease, to get regular comprehensive eye examinations.

In my district, on March 11, 2009 Dr. Robert Ritch and a dozen eye specialists from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEE) were at the United Nations (UN) headquarters building screening UN officials such as the Secretary General, as well as ambassadors and deputy ambassadors from over 192 countries for glaucoma. Hopefully, publicity from this effort will help to prompt people around the world to get screened for glaucoma.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment of glaucoma can help people keep the precious gift of sight. Glaucoma has no symptoms and is characterized by painless, progressive loss of vision, so that detection depends upon periodic eye examinations that include evaluation of the optic nerve and measurement of eye pressure. If undetected and untreated, glaucoma will gradually claim all peripheral vision and ultimately cause total blindness. While treatment can halt the progress of the disease, nothing can reverse damage that has been done, making early detection critical.

People at high risk for glaucoma should have their eyes examined for the disease at least every two years. High-risk individuals include people with a family history of glau-

coma, African Americans over the age of 40, people who are very nearsighted or farsighted and all persons over the age of 60.

The NYEE has been a driving force in combating glaucoma in increasing the number of New Yorkers who are screened. Founded in 1820, NYEE is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere. The NYEE has a long tradition of community outreach, medical education, and cutting-edge scientific research. It is home to many glaucoma specialists, including world-renowned glaucoma specialist Dr. Robert Ritch. Dr. Ritch is a co-founder of the World Glaucoma Patient Association, an umbrella organization which supports glaucoma associations and networks worldwide in their efforts to educate and support their members so that all people with glaucoma can understand and better manage their disease. Dr. Ritch is also a member of the World Glaucoma Day committee for the World Glaucoma Association.

I also ask my colleagues to recognize another World Glaucoma Day sponsor, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to educate all communities about the risks of glaucoma and other blindness-causing eye diseases, and to provide diagnostic screening opportunities for high-risk population groups across the nations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing World Glaucoma Day, and the urgent need to ensure that everyone is regularly screened for glaucoma.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Mobile Harbor Turning Basin.
Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.
Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama State Port Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 North Water Street, Suite 300, Mobile, AL 36602.

Description of Request: Provide \$4.785 million to construct the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL99-662 Ninety-ninth Congress, Second Session) under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Construction General Account. Initial project request anticipated expenditures of .04 percent will be used for land; .11 percent will be used for navigation aids; .11 percent for removal of existing concrete debris; 3.97 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 26 CY Bucket Dredge; 4.20 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 30 inch Pipeline Dredge; 67 percent for the removal of and placement in designated dredge disposal areas approx.

2,699,232 cubic yards of dredged material; 5.32 percent for planning, engineering and design work; 2.42 percent for construction management; 12.57 percent in project construction contingency; and 3.83 percent in project escalation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Pts. 1500-1508) resulting in a FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Construction of the authorized turning basin has been evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Corps General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to alleviate harbor delays and improve safety conditions, and reflects a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.46 to 1. This project is permitted. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Construction account. The Alabama State Port Authority, the 10th largest port in the U.S., is the federally designated local sponsor for the Port of Mobile Harbor and will provide the 25 percent cost share for the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project. The Alabama State Port Authority's 25 percent cost share funding is secured. Turning basin will help serve a new container terminal, coal terminal and two raw material terminals.

HONORING GARY SHEPHERD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires after 33 years of service from General Motors and the UAW. A retirement party will be held in his honor on March 27th in Saginaw, Michigan.

A native of Saginaw County, Gary was hired by General Motors in 1976. He worked at the Saginaw Steering Gear facility and worked his way from the production line to journeyman status as a machine repairman. In 1985 he was elected an Alternate Committeeman at UAW Local 699. From this position he went on to serve as the District Committeeman on the Bargaining Committee, as Chairman of the Bargaining Unit for Local 699, and Top Negotiator of GM Sub-Council 5. Gary has also served on the CAP and Recreation Committee of the Local. Local 699 was featured in a 1999 Industry Week article entitled, "A Perfect Union," outlining the cooperative relationship between the UAW and the auto manufacturer. Gary continued his career with the UAW and in 1998 he was appointed as a Region 1-D International Representative and as the Skilled Trades Representative. He rounded out his career by serving on UAW President Ron Gettelfinger's staff as Coordinator for Michigan CAP in Region 1-D.

In addition to his work on behalf of UAW workers, Gary has worked extensively in the community. He is the president of the Saginaw Area Fireworks, served as co-chair of the Saginaw County Vision 20/20, and on the

Boards of Saginaw Future, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works, and Saginaw County United Way. He received the Chamber of Commerce President's Award for his work. Gary also finds time to be a read volunteer and he is a lifelong member of Second Presbyterian Church.

Gary is the past Chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party, a member of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, was elected as a John Kerry delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention and was the 2008 Electoral College Delegate for the Michigan 4th Congressional District, casting his ballot for President Barack Obama. He has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gary Shepherd as he retires from the UAW and General Motors. I wish him the best as he starts this next phase of his life and continued success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHAMPTON
FIRE COMPANY #1

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southampton Fire Company #1 for 100 years of distinguished service. Since their inception in 1909, Southampton Fire Company #1 has remained an all-volunteer fire department.

On December 10, 1909, the first meeting of the Southampton Fire Company was held, and four years later they were incorporated with 88 charter members. They utilized a variety of firefighting equipment through the years, such as a horse-drawn button hand pumper in 1913, a Ford Model T/Hale fire engine in 1921, and an 85-foot Hi-Ranger Snorkel elevated platform truck in 1965, the first of its kind in Bucks County.

A major renovation of the firehouse was dedicated in May 2000 to the "past, present, and future members of the Southampton Fire Company #1, in recognition of their unselfish service to the citizens of Upper Southampton Township." Now, on the Fire Company's 100th Anniversary, we also extend our greatest thanks and appreciation for their unwavering service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the Southampton Fire Company #1 for their 100 years of service to our families in Bucks County. I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

HONORING STEPHANIE C.
KOPELOUSOS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great leader from the State of Florida, Stephanie C. Kopelousos. She was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation in 2007 and since then has been working to ensure our safety on Florida's roads.

Secretary Kopelousos got her start in public service right here in the halls of Congress in 1993 as a Legislative Assistant to then Congresswoman Tillie K. Fowler of Florida's 4th District and Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management.

In 2001 she joined the Florida Department of Transportation as their primary federal liaison in Washington, D.C. focusing on transportation, emergency management and disaster relief, and housing. She was instrumental in negotiations during the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. In 2005 she became the Department's Chief of Staff, and in early 2007 was appointed Interim Secretary.

Secretary Kopelousos carries with her more than a decade of professional experience in state and federal public policy, with a particular emphasis in transportation. As Secretary, she oversees more than 7,000 employees and an annual budget of \$8 billion, always keeping with the agency's mission of providing a safe transportation system that fuels economic growth and enhances quality of life for all Floridians.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos for her commitment to ensuring a safe and efficient transportation system in Florida and her invaluable contributions in the field of public service.

HONORING TuCARE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, incorporated upon the celebration of their 20th anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the "Annual Dinner and Auction" in Sonoma, California.

Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc, or TuCARE, was first organized in 1989 when a group of individuals came together to enlighten others in the wise use of natural resources in Tuolumne County. The organization has a history of commitment to ensuring the long-term viability of all of the natural resources through an ecosystem management approach toward the stewardship of the public lands. They are firm believers that man must play an active role to protect the forests from the destruction of wildfires. The multiple-use system that TuCARE promotes allows for everyone to benefit from the forest. Livestock owners use the pastures in the summer, miners are allowed to extract minerals, loggers can help thin the forest and everyone can enjoy the recreation the forest has to offer.

The organization ensures that the private and the public sector work together to protect property rights and to educate our future generations. TuCARE advocates awareness in schools and communities by sponsoring "Tours for Kids" for more than twelve hundred students each year and a Natural Resources Tour for invited guests from the State of California, Congress, local businesses, educators and various agencies. TuCARE is connected to schools in Tuolumne, Calaveras and

Stanislaus Counties and participates in the Tuolumne County Schools Forestry Institute for Teachers and presents to civic groups and organizations. They also sponsor various public forums on issues related to natural resources and is represented at the annual Alliance on American Fly-in for Freedom forum held in Washington, DC. The organization prepares press releases for all media outlets and meets with local, state and federal elected officials regarding issues of concern.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment, Inc. on twenty years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing TuCARE many years of continued success.

HONORING GEORGE VUJNOVICH
FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE
HALYARD MISSION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I am joined by the co-chairs of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, Representatives MELISSA BEAN of Illinois and DAN BURTON of Indiana, in honoring a treasured constituent of mine and one of the unsung heroes of World War II, retired Major George Vujnovich. Major Vujnovich, a proud Serbian-American, was instrumental in "Operation Halyard" and one of the last surviving members of that successful wartime mission.

In the summer of 1944, Americans and Allied airmen flew hundreds of sorties over Europe with the aim of disrupting the Ploesti oil complex, Adolf Hitler's most important oil pipeline. During their treacherous journey from Italian bases to the Romanian oil complex, 1,500 of our brave men were forced to bail out over Yugoslavia. Scores of American crewmen were trapped behind enemy lines and dependent on Serbian villagers to hide them from the Germans.

Although Yugoslavia was enemy territory at the time, much of the country's Serbian regions remained under the control of Yugoslav guerilla resistance leader General Draja Mihailovich and his Chetnik forces. General Mihailovich remained loyal to the Allies, and under his orders the Serbian people shielded these airmen and protected them from capture and imprisonment by German troops.

General Mihailovich passed information about the downed American airmen to the United States authorities. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) put together Operation Halyard, a daring mission to save the men without drawing the attention of the Nazis. The mission entailed flying and landing C-47 cargo planes into enemy territory, picking up the downed airmen, and flying back to allied territory. Before the mission could go forward, however, the Allied forces cut ties with General Mihailovich and no longer had specific information about the location of the American airmen. Major George Vujnovich, the OSS operation chief stationed in Bari, Italy, discovered that Mihailovich was hiding the airmen near his headquarters in the city of Pranjani. He informed U.S. officials of their location and Operation Halyard progressed.

As the mission advanced, Major Vujnovich's experience and expertise were indispensable. Major Vujnovich was responsible for selecting members of the Halyard Mission, and orchestrating the initial parachute drop into the area. The rescue plans hinged on his direction and the ability of local Serbs to build an airstrip without any modern tools and without German detection.

Operation Halyard took place between August and December 1944 and was a complete success. Hundreds of men were rescued behind enemy lines and no lives were lost in the mission. The Halyard Mission was a success thanks to the brave men and women of the OSS and the courageous Serbian locals who risked their lives to safeguard American airmen. Thanks to a keen mind and tactical expertise, Major Vujnovich demonstrated the courage and selflessness that mark him as an American hero.

Major George Vujnovich was born to Serbian parents in 1915. In 1934 he received a scholarship from the Serb National Federation and left his home in New York to attend college in Belgrade. While living in Belgrade, Mr. Vujnovich met and married his wife, Mirjana. Their life was disrupted in 1941, when the German Luftwaffe bombed Belgrade in Operation Punishment. Mr. Vujnovich was a firsthand witness to the bombing, nearly losing his life when a falling bomb destroyed a nearby streetcar. After the bombing, Mr. and Mrs. Vujnovich fled Yugoslavia, and he accepted a job in Ghana as assistant airport manager while Mirjana moved to Washington, DC to work at the Yugoslav Embassy. When the US entered the war, Mr. Vujnovich received a commission as a second lieutenant and assumed command of an airbase in Nigeria. While working at the airbase, he was recruited by the OSS for the clandestine services, and was later sent to the OSS post in Bari, Italy. From this post he saved the lives of his fellow servicemen and earned the title of hero. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge Major Vujnovich's contribution to the Halyard Mission.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN J.
AND ELEANOR R. KEARNEY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Martin J. and Eleanor R. Kearney for being named the Irish Couple of the Year by the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts. They were awarded this deserved title on February 7, 2009 for their support and contributions to the club. The couple has been active with the club for over fifty years. Both have helped with fundraisers and dances. Eleanor is an avid baker for the club and Martin was a strong supporter of the new building fund. A reception dinner was held in their honor on March 1, 2009.

Martin was born in the Great Blasket Islands in Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland on December 31, 1926. Eleanor is a life-long Springfield resident who was born on December 17, 1932. Martin came to America in 1951 where he soon met Eleanor. In 1953, they were mar-

ried in Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Springfield. Martin became a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in 1953 and now both Martin and Eleanor are life members.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was founded in 1880. The club consists of dedicated Irish and Irish-Americans whose goal is to preserve and promote their Irish heritage. The club's motto is culture, family and tradition. Since March 1970, the club has been located on 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield, Massachusetts. Today, the club is very active in their community, awarding the John Boyle O'Reilly Scholarship every year to college-bound students.

HONORING RABBI JON E. CUTLER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Jon E. Cutler—the only Jewish Chaplain currently serving in western Iraq. And as a former paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division who served in Baghdad 5 years ago and the first Iraq war veteran to serve in this great body, it fills me with tremendous pride to be Rabbi Cutler's Congressman. Rabbi Cutler has set an example for all of us—not just through his spiritual leadership—but through selfless service to our community and our nation.

In Iraq, Rabbi Cutler serves as the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, and assists the entire Al Asad Marine Air Base. Prior to his service in Iraq, Rabbi Cutler served as the pulpit rabbi of Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the past 8 years.

As the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain, Rabbi Cutler supervises 20 Christian chaplains and chaplain assistants, and has worked to create a center for Jewish troops who are serving in Anbar Province. The congregants of Tiferes B'nai Israel even contributed to this effort, sending tiles and paste to be used for the chapel floor.

As the Rabbi for Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler worked tirelessly to unite his congregants, both old and new. He strived to make new members feel welcome while respecting the needs and wishes of long-standing members. Before he was deployed to Iraq, he also proudly received his Navy commander pins on the pulpit at Tiferes B'nai Israel.

Commander Cutler has been a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve for 23 years. He was the only Jewish chaplain serving with the Marines in Desert Storm, and after 9/11, he was called to the Pentagon to counsel family members who lost loved ones during the tragic events of that terrible day.

When not serving our troops in Iraq or his congregants in Warrington, Rabbi Cutler has served as an instructor at Gratz College for Jewish education and a visiting professor at Philadelphia University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in religious studies from Temple University, and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Cutler was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA.

Rabbi Cutler has contributed enormously to the citizens of Bucks County and given so

much to so many servicemen and women serving abroad. He leads by example and is committed to service, spiritual leadership and education. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rabbi Cutler for his outstanding work, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

HONORING REVEREND DR. F.O.
HOCKENHULL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull as he celebrates 40 years as pastor of the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A banquet in his honor was held last Friday in honor of this occasion.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull was educated at Arkansas State AM&N College, Wayne State University and Detroit Bible College. He has received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Arkansas Baptist College, an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Selma University and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Selma University.

He worked as a Chaplain in the Wayne County Jail and as a contact representative for the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School. After spending 6 years as the pastor of the Jehovah Baptist Church in Detroit, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull became the pastor at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. He has remained in this position for the past 40 years.

Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is the past-President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Educational Congress to the Great Lakes Baptist District Association; the Associate Director General of the National Congress of Christian Education-National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past-Vice-President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors at the Montgomery Bible Institute and Theological Center; a former member of the National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated Publishing Board; a former instructor at the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress-National Baptist Convention USA; past Supervisor of the Administrative Leaders Division-National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated; past Instructor with the Great Lakes Baptist District of Christian Education; a member of the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a member of the Stewardship Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; a Trustee of the Retirement Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated; and a delegate to the World Christian Conference in Australia.

In addition to his work, Reverend Dr. Hockenhull is a world renowned lecturer, a member of the NAACP, and a member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action. His wife of over 50 years, Marian, is the National Director of the Young People's Department. They have one son, Franco, and two granddaughters, Vanessa and Victoria.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the

life and work of Reverend Dr. F.O. Hockenhull. He has spent his life in devotion to Our Lord, Jesus Christ, by fulfilling God's Great Commission. His compassion, patience and love for humanity are recognized throughout the Flint community. Through his example, he inspires passion, spirituality, and service in his congregation and he carries the message of God's love beyond the walls of the church building. I have known Reverend Dr. Hockenhull for many years and have always been touched by his wisdom, his zeal and his piety. I pray that he will continue to serve for many, many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
BENHAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Elizabeth Benham, who is being honored this month in New York City by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) for her work as its President. Founded in 1930, BPW is an international organization of women business owners with links to more than 90 countries on five continents. BPW is a wonderful way for businesswomen to network and support one another.

After more than two decades of dedicated work on behalf of BPW, Ms. Benham became the organization's President last year. She is being honored at the annual Conference on the Status of Women that is being held this month at the United Nations, located in New York's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent.

Elizabeth Benham is the twentieth president of BPW International and the first American to serve at its helm in 28 years. She demonstrated her commitment to BPW International as the chair of its Fundraising Taskforce from 2004–2008. In 2005, she served the organization as the Vice President, Membership Chair, Friends and Fellows Chair, and as a member of the International Planning Committee. In these roles she traveled extensively, meeting with members and chapters around the world, and developing a broad and deep understanding of the needs of the organization's diverse membership. Since 1998, Elizabeth Benham has also served as an alternate delegate to the United Nations on behalf of BPW International.

When she became BPW International President in 2008, Elizabeth Benham not only had extensive prior experience working with BPW International, but had also achieved notable success as a businesswoman. Before going into business, she was a certified nurse midwife in high risk obstetrics. Throughout her life, Elizabeth has demonstrated her compassion and motivation in her volunteer work as the Vice President of Toys of Hope Charity, a Board Member of Women Builders Council in New York, and a Board Member of the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Elizabeth Benham has worked tirelessly in her professional life and leadership roles to support the accomplishments of women throughout the world. In her role as President, she is working to form connections of im-

proved communication among all members and affiliates for a better flow of information. She has dedicated her efforts to expanding and improving training for future leaders of BPW International and for greater efficiencies in managing the vast organization. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the mission of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women in helping women in the workforce achieve their business and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Elizabeth Benham and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which under her able and inspired leadership continues to ensure that women gain equal participation and success in the workforce.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act.

I would like to first thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for bringing to the floor this important legislation. I am also proud to have worked with Mr. PASCARELL on Title Three of this bill—which we have introduced previously.

Sewer maintenance is a serious problem in low-lying coastal areas such as Michigan. It is a sad fact that many of the sewer systems in Michigan and throughout the country date back to the Nineteenth Century.

These outdated systems often overflow with untreated human and industrial waste—releasing toxins and disease-causing organisms.

Inadequate maintenance, deteriorated pipes, rainfall and snow melts are too often cited as the cause of these overflows.

It is indisputable that sewer overflows pose a significant threat to public health and safety because they put raw sewage into rivers, streets, basements, and other areas of human exposure. They are also responsible for many beach closures, shellfish restrictions, and violations of water quality standards.

In Michigan alone there have been over 1,000 reported sewer overflows annually. These events have contributed over 20 billion gallons of sewage and wastewater onto the ground and into Michigan rivers, lakes and streams.

Even more staggering, the EPA has estimated that nearly 900 billion—let me repeat, 900 billion—gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water are released through combined sewer overflows and separate sewer overflows annually in the United States.

The Water Quality Investment Act goes a long way toward ending the public health and environmental crisis associated with sewer overflows by providing federal funds to repair and replace outdated systems. Local governments cannot simply fix this mess and meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act alone.

Also of critical importance in this bill are provisions to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act to tackle the problem of contamination in the Great Lakes Basin. It would provide the necessary funding to help clean up contaminated sediment in over 30 concerning areas.

My gratitude must also be extended to my esteemed colleague from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, for his steadfast commitment to the Great Lakes and the passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1262 today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2009, I was absent for one Rollcall Vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote 124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 6, 2009, I missed rollcall vote 107 on approving the Journal. If present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING FRANCIS M. GORSKI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis M. Gorski for his 50th year of active service to the Lingohocken Fire Company. He and his family have been extremely dedicated to serving Wrightstown Township and the community as a whole.

Lingohocken firefighters are able to become "Life Members" after twenty-five years of service and let others take over. That was an option for Mr. Gorski twenty-five years ago, but instead he has remained hard at work—as so many have come to expect.

Mr. Gorski is one of the most active members of the department, responding to 70–80% of their calls. He has responded to calls that many individuals his age would no longer respond to—including calls at 3 o'clock in the morning. He volunteers his time for Lingohocken on top of the time he spends running the family business with his two younger brothers.

He has served at almost every rank in the company including chief, and is currently serving as deputy chief. His dedication and work ethic are examples for our community and country to follow.

Those at the company—and in our entire community—are extremely proud of the accomplishments and outstanding level of serv-

ice Mr. Gorski provides to the people of Wrightstown Township and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Francis Gorski for his exceptional services to his community and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT HELEN MARSHALL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, an outstanding public servant. First elected the Borough President of Queens in November 2001, Helen Marshall is the first African-American and just the second woman to assume the post of chief executive of Queens County, which has a population of more than 2.2 million people. She has been a leader of uncommon grace, energy, and dedication to the people she serves.

As the Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall has been a champion for public libraries and schools, job training programs, quality health care, senior citizens, the environment, and economic development, just as she has been throughout her remarkable career. She has allocated tens of millions of dollars for parks, playgrounds and libraries, and in 2005 was bestowed the statewide Daniel Casey Library Advocacy Award. She has helped fund the expansions of cultural institutions, organized a Borough President's "War Room" to ensure the timely construction of thirty new public schools with more than 17,800 seats, and marshaled support for important infrastructure projects like the Queens Plaza Roadway Rebuilding Project and Long Island City Links. Marshall also spearheaded the historic effort to bring CUNY to the Rockaway Peninsula, providing \$6 million in capital funding to convert a former courthouse.

A native New Yorker, Helen Marshall served for nearly two decades as a respected legislator in both the New York State Assembly and the New York City Council. In 1982, she was elected to the first of five terms in the New York State Assembly, where she chaired the Rules Committee and served on the Leland Commission.

When she won her seat on the City Council in 1991, she became the first female and first member of a minority elected to represent her City Council district, she worked to improve and unite an extraordinarily diverse community. On the City Council, she served as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and on the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Women's Issues. She also served as Co-Chair of the Council's Black and Latino Caucus. As Chair of the City Council's Higher Education Committee, Marshall successfully fought against the privatization of the City University of New York, one of the largest public university systems in the world. She secured funds to restore the City's free dental clinics, led the fight to prevent the sale of Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Center and has fought for many years to protect Flushing Bay from the impact of LaGuardia Airport.

A proud graduate of the New York City public school system, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Queens College of the City University of New York. For eight years prior to her election to the Assembly, Marshall was an early childhood teacher. In 1969 she became the first Director of the Langston Hughes Library, a post she held for five years. She also served as Director of the Elmcot Testing Assessment and Placement Program for eight years, where she helped hundreds of New Yorkers find gainful employment. In 1975, she served as a Member of the Democratic National Committee. She also served on Queens Community Board 3 for thirteen years, as a parent activist in the public schools for a decade and a half, was a founder of the Queens Overall Economic Development Corporation, and was elected in 1974 as a Democratic District Leader.

Helen Marshall remains devoted to her beloved husband, Donald, and to her children and grandchildren. She is universally regarded with affection by the people of Queens, a remarkable feat in the most diverse county in our nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Borough President Marshall, who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout her career on behalf of her constituents in Queens and all New Yorkers.

IN HONOR OF JOHN P. GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and of memory of my friend and mentor, John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office, John P. Gallagher Building, and in recognition of his lifetime service to our community and to our country.

A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Mr. Gallagher was the son of Irish immigrants, from whom he learned the values of a strong work ethic and the importance of faith, family and service to community. During World War II, he served in the Army, First Engineer Special Brigade and in six combat campaigns, including missions in North Africa and the Normandy Invasion. Following the war, Mr. Gallagher worked in construction before taking a job with the City of Cleveland in 1954. He worked diligently for the City, until his retirement in 1987, which followed 22 years in the role of Superintendent of Sidewalks.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Gallagher dedicated his time and talent to issues and projects focused on the improvement of our community. He was a staunch advocate of neighborhood safety, and also advocated for the welfare and rights of senior citizens. For many years, he served as a Democratic Party precinct committee chairman and volunteered countless hours in numerous local, state and national campaigns. He kept a close watch over his neighborhood park, and organized programs and projects for senior citizens at Cleveland's Gunning Recreation Center. His intelligence, kindness and good sense of humor quickly endeared people to him. Mr.

Gallagher's keen understanding of the soul of a neighborhood and his opinions on community issues were valued by everyone, from neighbors to national leaders.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office building after John P. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher's service to family, friends, community and country has greatly influenced the lives of everyone he has known, including my own. He will forever be remembered along the streets, in the meeting halls and throughout the parks of Cleveland's west side neighborhood.

PROCLAMATION: THE 50TH WINTER
PARK SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL

HON. SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. KOSMAS. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, since its founding in 1960, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, which is an all volunteer effort supported by the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Committee, the City of Winter Park and numerous volunteers, has grown to become one of the premier art festivals in the county; and

Whereas, every year hundreds of Winter Park citizens contribute thousands of hours to ensure that the 350,000 visitors to the Festival enjoy the best in fine art and that the 225 exhibiting artists enjoy the best in outdoor art venues; and

Whereas, exhibits by Orange County school students have been part of the Festival since its inception, and the more recent Children's Workshop Village has integrated local museums and art centers to provide exciting art experiences for children of all ages; and

Whereas, the Festival Emerging Artist Program gives promising and talents artists who are determining their career paths the opportunity to exhibit in their first outdoor art festival, all expenses paid; and

Whereas, The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Foundation provides scholarships to local colleges and universities for promising art students.

Now, therefore, I, Suzanne M. Kosmas, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Congresswoman, 24th District, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 20, 21 and 22, 2009 "The 50th Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival" and encourage all residents to recognize and show their appreciation for the many memories and contributions the Festival has made to our community over the years.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to be affixed this 16th day of March, 2009.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
DOLORIS COULTER COGAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Doloris Coulter

Cogan and the publication of her book, *We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Ms. Cogan is a 1946 graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York. *We Fought the Navy and Won* is a personal recollection of Guam's transition from a Naval Administration to a civilian government after World War II. Ms. Cogan at the time was editor of the *Guam Echo* under the Institute of Ethnic Affairs, and her writings chronicle the stories of Guam's leaders, their allies in Washington, D.C., and their efforts in bringing a civilian government to Guam.

From 1898 to 1950, Guam was administered under the Secretary of the Navy, and while legislation for Guam's self-governance had been introduced before this Congress none were reported out of committee. It was not until the signing of the Guam Organic Act of 1950 by President Harry S. Truman, that Guam was allowed to govern itself with a civilian government. The Guam Organic Act transferred administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior and established executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government on Guam. Since that time, Congress has passed legislation that changed the Governor of Guam from a Presidential appointment position to a locally elected position. Further, Congress passed legislation granting Guam a non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

As Guam's representative to the U.S. Congress, I commend Ms. Cogan for her work as editor of the *Guam Echo* and for the publishing of *I Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Through her writings we are to reflect and appreciate the efforts undertaken to bring self-governance to Guam and we can have a deeper appreciation of the historical roots of the Organic Act of Guam.

RECOGNIZING DANNA CHATWELL
AS THE 2008-2009 HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Danna Chatwell, recipient of the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Her success as an educator is a testament to the power of our country's teachers, and I am proud to honor Ms. Chatwell on this distinguished occasion.

Ms. Chatwell serves as a seventh grade science teacher at Woodlawn Beach Middle School in Gulf Breeze, Florida. In 2007, she earned the Holley-Navarre Intermediate Teacher of the Year, and this recent AFA award highlights her continued achievements. By merging technology and modern trends with proven teaching practices, Ms. Chatwell gives every student the ability to be successful. Her energy and passion for teaching infuse a desire for knowledge in her students that lives on long after they have graduated from her classroom.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Ms. Chatwell for her service to the students of

Woodlawn Beach and to the community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) and to congratulate Chairman FRANK, Chairman CONYERS, and Speaker PELOSI for their quick action to help American families.

The last eight years of disinvestment in American families have pushed the economy into a deep recession. Unemployment is rising and home values are falling while the costs of health care and food continue to rise. Thousands of my constituents have been laid off and can no longer afford to meet the basic needs of their families or pay their mortgages.

The dream of homeownership has become a nightmare for too many. Many home buyers are falling behind on their payments because of dropping home values and the financial crisis through no fault of their own. Many could make their mortgage payments until they lost their jobs or their incomes dropped. Others were victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous mortgage brokers and are now struggling with unaffordable subprime loans. An estimated 14 million homeowners owe more than their home is worth, and many cannot refinance into an affordable mortgage. As a result, a record number of Americans are losing their homes to foreclosure every month. Foreclosures hurt everyone—including our families, neighborhoods, and communities—resulting in lost tax revenue for local governments, reduced property values for neighbors, and often abandoned properties require an increased police presence in our neighborhoods.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 is a comprehensive approach to break the cycle of foreclosures and declining home values. This legislation offers fair and effective solutions to help families who are facing foreclosure today and those at risk of foreclosure in the future. To accomplish this, H.R. 1106 improves the Hope for Homeowners program by reducing fees that discourage lenders from voluntarily refinancing mortgage loans. This bill would also provide bankruptcy judges with the authority they need to modify loan terms for families who are already in the bankruptcy process—a provision that could reduce foreclosures by 20 percent at no cost to taxpayers. Bankruptcy courts currently have the power to modify loans for corporations, commercial real estate and even vacation homes; extending this option to save the primary residences for families is necessary and equitable.

Last week, President Obama announced the Comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, a bold strategy to help up to nine million families restructure their mortgages to avoid foreclosure. The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act is a key step in putting President Obama's plan into place.

The collapsing housing market is one of the root causes of the present economic crisis.

Until the housing sector is stabilized, there will simply be no recovery in America. H.R. 1106 is a major step in addressing the crisis in the housing market

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING MIKE HAUSER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Hauser of Santa Rosa, California, who passed away on March 3, 2009, at the age of 62. Mike had led the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce for almost nine years, including regular calls from his sick bed during the last months of his life.

Mike took the reins of Chamber in 2000, and, under his leadership, the organization expanded its programs, enhancing the business climate while benefiting the community. He realized that the two goals complemented each other and brought people together to focus on them. Mike used his low-key style and friendly manner as well as his keen understanding and broad experience to develop initiatives that drew various stakeholders into the process. He was adept at developing relationships that fostered his success.

Mike's efforts included a focus on educating the Spanish-speaking community to be the current and future workforce, including a summer algebra academy for middle school students, securing airline service at the county airport, advocating for the SMART train, and creating programs to develop entrepreneurial businesses and generate high-wage jobs.

Because of his skills and efforts, the Chamber recently learned that it had been awarded a rare five-star rating by the National Chamber of Commerce, becoming the only organization in California to achieve that honor. Also, Mike was set to become Chair of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives in August.

Originally from Iowa, Mike graduated from Iowa State University and then worked in a number of Chambers of Commerce in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. He settled for 13 years in Fort Collins, Colorado, where his reputation attracted national attention. When the Santa Rosa Chamber was ready for a new president, Mike was an ideal choice.

He leaves a Chamber that is thriving, with increased membership and a variety of successful programs.

Mike is survived by his wife Kelly, daughters Heidi and Dana, and granddaughter Avery as well as his mother Beryl and three siblings.

Madam Speaker, the Santa Rosa Chamber and the broader community will miss Mike Hauser's leadership and his passion for addressing significant local issues. We thank him for the legacy he will leave in strong ongoing programs, especially the newly re-named Mike Hauser Algebra Academy.

IN MEMORY OF REV. JOSEPH C. MARTIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Joseph C. Martin, a son of Maryland who devoted his life to helping tens of thousands of alcoholics overcome their addiction—an addiction he overcame himself. Father Martin drank heavily for more than a decade until, with the help of a treatment center for the clergy, he recovered his sobriety. Drawing on his personal struggle, Father Martin developed his famous "Chalk Talk on Alcohol," a common-sense lecture on addiction that remains in heavy use to this day, from the U.S. Armed Forces to substance-abuse programs around the world.

Along with his hard-won lessons on sobriety, his most lasting legacy is Father Martin's Ashley, a treatment center overlooking the Chesapeake Bay in Harford County, Maryland. Father Martin's Ashley has kept its doors open for more than three decades and, with the guidance and leadership of its co-founder, has served more than 30,000 people. A giving, loving man who exemplified the best tenets of his faith and of the sobriety movement, Father Martin never turned away a potential patient who was short on funds. His example and his wise counsel enabled recovering alcoholics around the world to reclaim control of their lives.

Michael Deaver, who served as chief of staff to President Reagan and received treatment at Father Martin's Ashley, said: "I had been with presidents, kings, popes, and prime ministers, but Father Martin was the most powerful person I had ever met. You see, Father has the power to change people, to make them better, to make them whole again."

Though Father Martin is gone, I am sure that his legacy, his teaching, and his example will have that same power for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN CUNDIFF AS THE 2008–2009 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Susan Cundiff, the 2008–2009 Hurlburt AFA Chapter High School teacher of the Year.

For many students, the prospect of taking physics and chemistry is daunting. Yet, for those at Gulf Breeze High School in Gulf Breeze, Florida, these advanced subjects become something comprehensible and enjoyable due to the outstanding teaching abilities of Ms. Susan H. Cundiff.

Advanced Placement Physics, Physics I/ Honors, Beginning Physics, and Beginning Chemistry are all taught by Ms. Cundiff, who was a cofounder of the Physics Alliance of Northwest Florida (PANF) and served as the organization's president for two years. She

has also coached events for the Science Olympiad. In each of her classes, students participate in a Rube Goldberg project in which a particular machine must be built. Previous projects include a letter folding machine, a machine that changes light bulbs, and robots capable of picking up and carrying objects. This learning style promotes an integrated, hands-on approach which helps break down the advanced material and makes it more tangible.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an incredible honor and is evidence of Ms. Cundiff's exceptional capabilities as an educator. Her teaching skills have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Cundiff's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in Northwest Florida, and the First District of Florida is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Susan Cundiff on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa School District.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my strong support for the Water Quality Investment Act of 2009. I thank Chairman OBERSTAR and the House leadership for their hard work on this timely legislation, which will modernize our nation's wastewater infrastructure to ensure our water supply is clean and safe for America's children and families.

A growing economy and population over the past decades have stretched the availability and compromised the quality of America's water supply. Our country has outgrown the capacity of our wastewater systems. Sewage overflows and toxic spillage are contaminating our water supply and posing grave threats to human health and the health of our water ecosystems.

By authorizing \$13.8 billion in federal grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.8 billion for sewer overflow control grants over the next five years, the Water Quality Investment Act will put 480,000 Americans to work and help bridge the gap between the number of wastewater infrastructure projects that need assistance and the amount of funding available. Over the next five years, Minnesota will receive over \$250 million to modernize its water systems, thereby helping to protect and restore the more than 10,000 lakes that help define our state.

This legislation also takes bold steps to clean up the Great Lakes, one of the nation's greatest natural resources. The Great Lakes make up the largest system of fresh, surface water on Earth, providing 90 percent of America's fresh surface water and 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply. In 2006 alone, over 23 billion gallons of sewage entered the Great

Lakes due to failing wastewater systems. This threatens human health and compromises the environmental integrity of these precious water bodies. This legislation authorizes \$750 million over five years for the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which supports projects to restore and protect the water quality of the Great Lakes.

Water is a scarce, precious resource and we must use it with great care. By passing the Water Quality Investment Act, Congress is working to ensure that our water can remain clean and safe for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE NETWORK JOURNAL'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL 2009 TWENTY-FIVE INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS HONOREES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and The Network Journal's Eleventh Annual 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees. Since 1998, The Network Journal has recognized the outstanding performance of 25 African-American women in the public, private, entrepreneurial and non-profit sectors throughout this nation and their impact to the world economy.

The Network Journal is a monthly business magazine with more than 88,000 readers. The publication is distributed nationwide with a focus on the Tri-state area (NY/NJ/CT) and features business articles of interest such as finance, technology, industry focus and ideas for Black professionals and small business owners. Aziz Gueye Adetimirin, Publisher of The Network Journal Magazine stated, "The women we are honoring this year are in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines." Founded in 1993, The Network Journal (TNJ) knows that Black professionals, more than most, recognize the importance of owning their own enterprises, but more importantly, TNJ knows that there is a difference between direct ownership and someone else defining your future. TNJ is also aware that Black professionals and entrepreneurs can chart their own course and own their success.

I am pleased to recognize TNJ's 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees: Abenaa Abboa-Offei, Senior Vice President, Customer and Community Connections Affinity Health Plan, New York City; Kelly Chapman, Director, Diversity Recruiting, Microsoft Corp., Cleveland; Amina Dickerson, Senior Director, Global Community Involvement Kraft Foods, Chicago; Joi Gordon Esq. Chief Executive Officer Dress for Success Worldwide, New York City; Brenda P. Grant, Infection Preventionist, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, Connecticut; Cecelia "Ci Ci" Holloway, Managing Director, Diversity and Inclusion for the Americas UBS Investment Bank, Stamford, Connecticut; Michele Hoskins, Michele Foods Inc. South Holland, Illinois; Gayle S. Lanier, Vice President and

General Manager, Nortel Knowledge Services Nortel Networks, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; Ellin LaVar, Owner, LaVar Hair Designs, New York City; Sibongile Magubane, Head of Finance Sports Cars, General Motors Corp., Detroit; Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, New York City; Teresa Wynn Roseborough Esq., Senior Chief Litigation Counsel, MetLife Inc., New York City; Sandra Scott Esq., Vice President of Legal Affairs, Home Box Office Inc., New York City; Gerri Warren-Merrick, President Warren, Merrick Communications, New York City; Elizabeth Williams, President and CEO, Roxbury Technology Corp., Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Karen Williams, Associate Publisher, Marketing, Essence Magazine, New York City; Rebecca Williams, Senior Vice President, Executive Creative Officer, Uniworld Group Inc., New York City; and Brenda Williams-Butts, Director of Community Engagement & Audience Development, WNYC Radio, New York City.

The Network Journal has been recognized by government agencies, premier media outlets and business and professional organizations. TNJ has received the "Outstanding Commitment and Positive Contribution to the MBE Community" from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and has been featured on CNN and FOX Television networks.

HONORING PAUL QUINN COLLEGE'S 137TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Quinn College and this institution's Founder's Observance of 2009 entitled 137 Years of Combining Intellect with Faith.

Paul Quinn College is a historically black college and holds the distinction of being the oldest such institution in the State of Texas. On April 4, 1872, a small group of African Methodist Episcopal circuit-riding preachers established the college under the leadership of Bishop J. M. Brown in Austin, Texas. Originally, Paul Quinn College helped newly freed slaves learn various skills including blacksmithing, carpentry, tanning and saddle work.

A few short years after its founding, the college moved to Waco, Texas where increased funds allowed the school to expand in size and further develop a curriculum. The subjects of Latin, mathematics, music, theology, English, carpentry, sewing, household, kitchen and dining room work were added. In 1881, the college was chartered by the State of Texas and the school officially took the name of Paul Quinn College. This name was chosen in honor of Bishop William Paul Quinn who served as a Bishop representing the western states in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for over thirty years.

Today Paul Quinn College stands as a legacy to the hard work and dedication of the institution's founders, teachers, alumni, and students. On the week of March 28 through April 4, the college will be holding various Founder's Observances to commemorate the birth

and 137 years of the school's history. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Quinn College and recognizing this institution's accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HELENE MCGLYNN AS THE 2008-2009 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER ELEMENTARY AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Helene "De De" McGlynn, who has received the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Her passion and dedication show that teachers can truly make a difference in the lives of their students, and I am proud to honor such an admirable leader of our local community.

Ms. McGlynn teaches fifth grade at Florosa Elementary School in Mary Esther, Florida. Her classes span the width of the education spectrum, from a gifted and advanced math class to a science and reading class for lower performing students. She provides a differentiated curriculum to her pupils by integrating math, science, and reading skills to all academic levels. By using hands-on experiments, creative discussions, and real-world problem solving, Ms. McGlynn inspires a passion for learning to all. Her unwavering goal is to instill a thirst for knowledge in her students by crafting a relevant, modern program for classroom success.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Ms. McGlynn for her public service to the students of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Dept of Agriculture—SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Nevada-Reno

Address of Requesting Entity: 1664 N. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89557-0208

Description of Request: Funding would be used to address critical rangeland issues as they affect the health and productivity of land, forage for wildlife and domestic livestock, protection of endangered species, wildfires and invasive species. Science-based solutions to reduce wildfires, improve forage production, and protect wildlife species are critical needs. Funds requested will pay for scientific projects approved by the Experiment Station after peer-review.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Dept of Agriculture—Conservation Operations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Carson City, Nevada

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: Funding will be used by the city to continue fire restoration following the Waterfall wildfire.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Washoe County Sheriff's Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 911 Parr Boulevard, Reno NV 89512

Description of Request: Funding will be used to improve DNA processing technology at the sheriff's office, which serves most of northern Nevada. The bulk of the funds would specifically help with the creation of a DNA database laboratory, in addition to purchasing equipment.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS meth

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Partnership Carson City Anti-Meth Coalition

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: Funding will be used to combat methamphetamine in the Carson City area, which is one of the top crime and narcotics issues facing the state. Carson City has developed a model program that combines law enforcement, public awareness, drug treatment and counseling programs to eradicate meth use in the local community. The requested funding will build on significant past efforts and ultimately lead to the reduction of meth use in the local community and related criminal activity.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—COPS Meth

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Secret Witness

Address of Requesting Entity: Secret Witness Program at PO Box 20991, Reno, Nevada 89515

Description of Request: Secret Witness is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)) that has been active in northern Nevada for more than 30 years. Secret Witness will expand its efforts into Phase II, and will include an assessment of its program upon completion to determine the impact of the information.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOJ—OJP—Juvenile Assistance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Address of Requesting Entity: 1041 North Virginia Street, Third Floor, Reno, Nevada 89503

Description of Request: The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the nation's premier judicial education organization, has been providing critical education to members of this nation's judiciary

for decades. Located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, its long and outstanding reputation for providing cutting-edge training for judges and other system professionals in areas related to court practice is nationally recognized. The National Council uses these Federal dollars to provide training to judges nationwide on child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, divorce, custody and visitation, substance abuse, and mental health and educational needs of children, among other topics.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Truckee River Flood Project

Address of Requesting Entity: 9390 Gateway Drive, Ste. 230, Reno, NV 89521

Description of Request: The Truckee Meadows, Nevada project is a multi-purpose project that will provide flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and recreation along the Truckee River from Reno to Pyramid Lake.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: no entity—program request spent by Corps

Address of Requesting Entity:

Description of Request: The Rural Nevada program was designed to benefit small communities and to provide assistance for construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, environmental restoration and surface water protection projects. The difficulty in meeting water supply needs in Nevada has only been exacerbated by the tremendous growth Nevada has experienced. The Rural Nevada Program was authorized in a prior Water Resources Development Act and splits the project costs with the federal government 75% federal share/25% local share.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOE—EERE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Desert Research Institute

Address of Requesting Entity: 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512

Description of Request: A Renewable Energy Center (REC) will serve as the physical and programmatic focal point for all of Desert Research Institute (DRI) research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) work in the area of renewable energy. DRI has proven strengths in wind and hydrogen research, with significant potential to expand its renewable-energy activities into areas such as biomass and biofuels.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Western Nevada Development District

Address of Requesting Entity: 704 West Nye Lane, Ste 201, Carson City, Nevada 89703

Description of Request: WNDD is a multi-county development organization that promotes job creation and growth among mostly small businesses. Funds will promote job creation in northern Nevada.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—Science and Technology
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: American Water Works Research Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 6666 W. Quincy Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80235

Description of Request: Funding would be used to continue research into cost-effective technologies for water quality that will benefit consumers, as the primary purpose of the research is to enable water utilities to practically address and manage challenges to water supply and to be directly involved in the deployment of new technologies.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Henderson, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 240 Water Street, Henderson, NV 89009

Description of Request: Funding would be used for construction of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant/Southwest Water Reclamation Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: EPA—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Reno, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 E 1st Street, Reno, NV 89501

Description of Request: Funding would be used to convert septic systems to sewer systems, in order to help promote health and safety of residents.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Carson/Tahoe Regional Healthcare/CTRH Dayton Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 1600 Medical Parkway, Carson City, Nevada 89703

Description of Request: Funding would be used to provide Emergency Medical Services Equipment for the hospital, which serves a large and fast-growing region.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pershing County General Hospital and Nursing Home

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 661, Lovelock, Nevada 89419

Description of Request: Funding would be used for the purchase of equipment, specifically a mammography machine.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Mary's Regional Medical Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 235 West Sixth Street, Reno, Nevada 89503

Description of Request: Funding will be used to expand and renovate the existing, outdated emergency unit.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HHS—HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Center for Molecular Medicine/Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease at Pennington Medical Building

Address of Requesting Entity: Mail Stop 0332, Reno, Nevada 89557

Description of Request: Funding will be used for construction and equipment for the Institute clinical and research facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT—Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, NV 89520

Description of Request: Funding would be used to complete the replacement intermodal transportation facilities in downtown Sparks and Reno that are currently operating over capacity.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT—Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Drive, Reno, NV 89520

Description of Request: Funding will be used to mitigate severe current and future traffic congestion occurring on I-580/US 395 and the adjacent surface arterials in the primary commercial retail district for the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: DOT — Transportation, Community, and System Presentation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Reno, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1900, Reno, NV 89505

Description of Request: Funding would be used for continuing the revitalization and enhancement of the downtown rail access corridor.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HUD—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Fernley, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 595 Silver Lace Blvd., Fernley, NV 89408

Description of Request: Funding will be used for the redevelopment and enhancement of an historically significant downtown corridor to attract business and generate jobs, largely in response to destruction from a recent flood.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: HUD—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Wells, NV

Address of Requesting Entity: 1279 Clover Avenue, P.O. Box. 366, Wells, Nevada 89835

Description of Request: Funding will be used for streetscaping and construction of an indoor recreation facility, largely in response to destruction caused by a recent earthquake.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE FDIC'S SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON COMMUNITY BANKS AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THESE INSTITUTIONS, THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE, SMALL BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS, FAITH-BASED GROUPS, AND CESAR CHAVEZ GROUPS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, over the years, Texas community banks have provided the loans and services to small businesses and others, which have helped me help my district. Together, the community banks, the credit unions, the chambers of commerce, the mayors, the Texas Senate and House, the Public Housing Authorities, the CDCs, and many more in the Rio Grande Valley helped me reduce the unemployment rate in my district from 23 percent when I first arrived in Congress all the way down to 6 percent, which has increased to 9 percent in January 2009.

I want to impress upon you the need for all of us on this Committee, the House of Representatives, the Congress in general and the Executive branch to keep in mind the importance of community banks. It is a small—but vital—sector in the overall health of our economy. Community banks foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, and help increase individual savings, which is of particular importance to me as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

While community banks are not the cause of the current crisis, they are feeling its effects. Commercial banks and savings institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported a net loss of \$26.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2008.

However, more than two-thirds of all insured institutions were profitable in the fourth quarter of 2008, including community banks. “Unfortunately, their earnings were outweighed by large losses at a number of big banks”, as stated by the FDIC in their Quarterly Banking Report.

Total deposits increased by \$307.9 billion (3.5 percent), the largest percentage increase in 10 years, with deposits in domestic offices registering a \$274.1 billion (3.8 percent) increase. And at year-end, nearly 98 percent of all insured institutions, representing almost 99 percent of industry assets, met or exceeded the highest regulatory capital standards.

I agree with a statement made by Chairman Sheila Bair that, and I quote, “public confidence in the banking system and deposit insurance is demonstrated by the increase in domestic deposits during the fourth quarter. Clearly, people see an FDIC-insured account as a safe haven for their money in difficult times.”

Higher level of losses for actual and anticipated failures caused the FDIC Deposit Insurance Fund balance to decline during the fourth quarter of 2008 by \$16 billion, to \$19 billion (unaudited) at December 31. In addition to having \$19 billion available in the fund, \$22 billion has been set aside for estimated losses

on failures anticipated in 2009. The fund reserve ratio declined from 0.76 percent at September 30, 2008, to 0.40 percent in the last quarter of 2008. The statutory “targeted” reserve ratio for the FDIC fund is 1.15 percent.

When the FDIC Board recently met to address DIF’s fund reserve ratio, they decided to increase deposit insurance assessment rates beginning in the second quarter of 2009 and to consider adopting enhancements to the risk-based premium system.

I must admit that I was surprised and concerned when I read the FDIC’s press release announcing that the FDIC Board adopted an interim rule to impose a 20 basis point “emergency special assessment” on the industry on June 30, 2009. The assessment is to be collected on September 30, 2009. The interim rule would also permit the Board to impose an additional emergency special assessment after June 30, 2009, of up to 10 basis points if they deem it necessary to maintain public confidence in federal deposit insurance.

The FDIC merged the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) and the Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAW) to form the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIE) on March 31, 2006 in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005. As a result of the merger of the BIF and SAW, all insured institutions are subject to the same assessment rate schedule, but not necessarily the same assessment rate.

What is key here is the amount each institution is assessed is based upon statutory factors that include the balance of insured deposits as well as the degree of risk the institution poses to the insurance fund. Community banks do not pose a risk to the solvency of the Deposit Insurance Fund and its Designated Reserve Ratio and were not a party to the activities that led to such a low DIF ratio to the best of my knowledge.

The FDIC has a \$30 billion line of credit with the Treasury Department to meet its obligations. I am not opposed to the FDIC tapping that source. Our nation is in a severe economic crisis, and the FDIC plays a pivotal role in the financial system. We need to provide Chairman Bair and the Board with as much support as possible while simultaneously avoiding imposing unnecessary and unwarranted special assessments on financial institutions that had nothing to do with the current economic crisis or the condition of the overall banking industry.

The FDIC’s Deposit Insurance Fund currently has \$19 billion available, \$20 (you indicate \$22B earlier) billion set-aside for estimated losses on failures anticipated in 2009, and a \$30 billion line of credit with the Department of Treasury, bringing the total “available” to \$69 billion.

Legislation that recently passed the House and is being considered in the Senate included a \$70 billion increase in the FDIC’s line of credit at Treasury to \$100 billion, more than three-fold, and was intentionally capped at \$100 billion during a markup, bringing the total dollar amount available for the Deposit Insurance Fund to \$139(\$141?) billion, provided the legislation passes and is signed by the President.

Although very pleased to learn that Chairman Bair would cut the emergency special assessment in half, to 10 basis points, provided Congress increases the FDIC’s borrowing authority to \$100 billion, a quid pro quo, I remain

steadfast in my opposition to any special assessment that would be imposed on community banks.

Community banks did not cause the economic crisis. To the best of my knowledge, community banks do not pose a threat to the Deposit Insurance Fund or its Designated Reserve Ratio. Community banks did what they always do, they took care of their communities, small businesses, faith-based groups, community-based groups, nonprofits, César Chávez entities and many, many others.

Under the restoration plan approved last October, the FDIC Board set a rate schedule to raise the DIF reserve ratio to 1.15 percent within five years. Recent actions taken by the FDIC extends the restoration plan horizon to seven years in recognition of the current significant strains on banks and the financial system and the likelihood of a severe recession.

I agree with FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair's statement in the release that, and I quote, "Public confidence in the FDIC guarantee has helped assure a stable source of funding for banks in these troubled times." However, I am curious as to why community banks that played little to no role in the current financial crisis will have to pay a special assessment for something they did not do. I understand the argument that it's best to impose the assessment on all the insured institutions across the board. But, it is flawed. And, I'll ask one more time why should community banks that had little to nothing to do with the current crisis have to pay the special assessment?

They are small institutions that are well-capitalized whose funds are needed by local communities. Only thirteen out of 640 community banks in Texas have opted to participate in Treasury's Capital Purchase Program, and none of them are based out of my district.

As noted, the Full Committee and subsequently the House of Representatives passed legislation authorizing the FDIC to borrow up to \$100 billion from Treasury. Recently, Senate Banking Committee Chairman CHRISTOPHER DODD introduced legislation that would give the FDIC's Board of Directors, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the President, the power to increase the FDIC's borrowing authority above the \$100 billion cap to an amount they deem necessary to maintain the stability and designated reserve ratio of the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund, but not to exceed \$500 billion. This borrowing authority would sunset on December 31, 2010.

I support Chairman DODD's legislation—both its intent and its language—in large part due to the strict requirements it imposes on the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, and Treasury (in consultation with the President) prior to granting the authority for the FDIC to borrow beyond the proposed \$100 billion threshold as capped in the House-passed version of the legislation. It is sound public policy.

At the same time, with all the funds the FDIC currently has available and the additional borrowing authority it likely will have soon, I don't believe it needs to tap the community banks in my district, in Texas and the United States.

I have the utmost respect and confidence in Chairman Bair. I laud her for her commitment to financial literacy, especially her efforts to bring the unbanked into the mainstream financial system and away from check cashers, and payday and predatory lenders. I acknowledge and commend her and the FDIC Board for all their efforts and success at addressing the current economic crisis, up to a point.

The FDIC's proposed emergency special assessment will not only negatively impact community banks, but it will not help me in my capacity as Co-Chair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. It will not help me as a member of the Financial Services Committee. It definitely will not help me, a representative of the poorest county in the country, to bring the unbanked into the mainstream financial system.

There are alternatives to what the FDIC is proposing. If the FDIC needs additional funds to meet the designated reserve ratio, it can easily change the assessment base from domestic deposits to all deposits. The FDIC could tap temporary funding from the Treasury, like Wall Street firms, to re-capitalize the insurance fund, giving Main Street banks time to strengthen their balance sheets and allow local lending activities to continue, and grow, to help our struggling economy recover, rather than constrict lending further by imposing a new debt obligation on already burdened balance sheets.

I cannot support a policy in which a federal agency takes funds from my district, which includes Hidalgo County—the poorest county in the country—and transfers them to the limited areas of the country in which the large banks and entities other than community banks or credit unions, with the help of certain regulators, created the current global economic crisis.

Madam Speaker, I hope that someone out there is listening.

TREASURE ISLAND MAYOR MARY MALOOF COMPLETES 12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Treasure Island Mayor Mary Maloof turns over her gavel this week during the city commission's regularly scheduled meeting, ending 12 years of dedicated service.

It has been a privilege to work with Mayor Maloof on a number of projects important to the people of Treasure Island. Most notable was the rebuilding of the Treasure Island Causeway and Draw Bridge, which serves as a major evacuation route for the city's residents. Together, we dedicated this \$65 million project in June of 2006, to the cheers of the people of Treasure Island and to the relief of the city's engineers who were concerned about the safety of the old bridge.

Mayor Maloof was never afraid to tackle a problem of any size whether it is a major bridge replacement, the largest public works project in the city's history, or the concern of a single constituent. She approached all those challenges with the same interest and can-do spirit.

Mayor Maloof served for six years as a City Commissioner before being elected Mayor in 2003. She was the first woman to be elected Mayor of Treasure Island and was reelected to a second three-year-term in 2006.

She had the great honor to preside over the city's 50th anniversary in 2005 and through her 12 years of service to the people of Treasure Island, she has set the city on course for great success and prosperity over the course of its next 50 years.

Madam Speaker, serving as mayor of any community large or small is among the toughest of elected positions. Mayor Mary Maloof has carried out her duties with the greatest of honor and dedication and it is my hope that my colleagues join me today in saluting her for a job well done.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 18

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine nuclear energy development; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination of David J. Hayes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. SD-366
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. 334, Cannon Building SD-430
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Secretary of Commerce. SR-253
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 277, to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service. SD-430
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the National Academy of Science's report Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense medical programs. SD-192

- 2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine findings from the Disaster Recovery Subcommittee Special Report and working with the Administration on a way forward. SD-342
- Finance
Health Care Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine what is health care quality and who decides. SD-215
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine risk management oversight at Federal financial regulations. SD-538
- 2:45 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the incidence of suicides of United States Servicemembers and initiatives within the Department of Defense to prevent military suicides. SH-216

MARCH 19

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Pacific Command, United States Strategic Command, and United States Forces Korea, with the possibility of a closed session following in SR-222. SH-216
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Application Standards Improvement Act of 2009. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on assessing our vulnerabilities and developing an effective defense. SR-253
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine prospects for engagement with Russia. SD-419
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 515, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, and the nomination of Dawn Elizabeth Johnsen, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. SD-226
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine perspectives from main street on small business lending. SR-428A

- 10:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine bank supervision and regulators. SD-538
- 2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine current issues in deposit insurance. SD-538
- 2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

MARCH 24

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States European Command and United States Joint Forces Command; with the possibility of a closed session following in SR-222. SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine addressing insurance market reform in national health reform. SD-430

MARCH 25

- 9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SH-216
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine State-of-the-Art information technology (IT) solutions for Veterans' Affairs benefits delivery. SR-418
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on NextGen and the benefits of modernization. SR-253
- Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine reserve component programs of the Department of Defense. SR-232A

APRIL 2

- 2 p.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. SD-106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3097–S3122

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 595–605. **Page S3113**

Measures Considered:

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. **Pages S3101–10**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 73 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. 99), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S3109**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. **Page S3122**

Nomination—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Thomas L. Strickland, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on March 12, 2009, be jointly referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. **Page S3122**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Roy W. Kienitz, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

Regina McCarthy, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kim N. Wallace, of Texas, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Demetrios J. Marantis, of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

R. Gil Kerlikowske, of Washington, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

Ladda Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs). **Page S3122**

Messages from the House: **Page S3113**

Measures Referred: **Page S3113**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3113–15**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3115–21**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3112–13**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3121–22**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3122**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—99) **Page S3109**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3122.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner and Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine global counterterrorism efforts from national security briefers.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 1509–1539; 1 private bill, H.R. 1540; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 73–74; and H. Res. 245–248, were introduced. **Pages H3436–38**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3438**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
H.R. 1388, to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–37) and

H.R. 1323, to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations (H. Rept. 111–38).

Page H3436

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Edwards (MD) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H3403**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3403**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H3404**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 987, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the “John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 125; **Pages H3404–08, H3411**

Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1217, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the “Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 126; and

Pages H3408–09, H3411–12

Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 1284, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 127. **Pages H3409–10, H3412–13**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:28 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Pages H3410–11**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3403.

Senate Referrals: S. 338 and S. 39 were referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H3434**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3411, H3411–12, and H3412. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Appropriations: Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on Afghanistan. Testimony was heard from John Dister, National Intelligence Officer, South Asia, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command, United States Northern Command, United States Africa Command, and United States Transportation Command; with the possibility of a closed session following in SR–322, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine perspectives on modernizing insurance regulation, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold oversight hearings to examine energy development on public lands and the outer Continental Shelf, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine tax issues related to fraud schemes and an update on offshore tax evasion legislation, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, with the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, to hold joint hearings to examine law enforcement responses to Mexican drug cartels, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings on examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: with the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, to hold joint hearings to examine law enforcement responses to Mexican drug cartels, 10:30 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on Status of Climate Change Science, 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, on Military Personnel-Air Force, 10 a.m., H-104 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Nuclear Weapons Complex, 1 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Interoperable Communications, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, hearing on the status of the future combat systems program, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the status of U.S. strategic programs, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on Budgeting for Transportation: Financing Investments in Highways and Mass Transit, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on The Importance of Early Childhood Development, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on Stimulating the Economy through Trade: Examining the Role of Export Promotion, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Making Health Care Work for American Families: Ensuring Affordable Coverage, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled "Perspectives on Regulation of Systemic Risk in the Financial Services Industry," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, hearing on PKEMRA Implementation: An Examination of FEMA's Preparedness and Response Mission, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, hearing on Too Big To Fail?: The Role of Antitrust Law in Government-Funded Consolidation in the Banking Industry, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, oversight hearing entitled "Leasing and Development of Oil and Gas Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf," 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 1388, Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, 2:30 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on New Directions for Energy Research and Development at the U.S. Department of Energy, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the Vision Center of Excellence: What Has Been Accomplished in Thirteen Months? 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on MedPAC's Annual March Report to the Congress on Medicare Payment Policy, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on NSA Compliance Issues, 1 p.m., 304-HVC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 146, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 17

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions:

(1) H. Res. 240—To support the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(2) H. Res. 211—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month;

(3) H.R. 955—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office";

(4) H.R. 1216—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building";

(5) H.R. 1323—Reducing Information Control Designations Act;

(6) H.R. 628—To establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges;

(7) H.R. 1110—PHONE Act of 2009;

(8) H.R. 1429—Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009; and

(9) H.R.—Providing for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.

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