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No. 38

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 14, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 1 minute.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of South Carolina to express our condolences to the people of Japan in the wake of the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck off the northeast coast of Japan this past Friday and the devastating tsunami that claimed the lives of thousands of people.

I have visited Japan twice, once back in 2007 and again in 2009 when I took my oldest son. It's a beautiful country; and I know the people of Japan to be a resilient, generous, and hardworking people. In this time of inexpressible suffering and need, please know that the people of South Carolina and the people of America stand with the citizens of Japan.

May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

FUNDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the year-long continuing resolution the Republicans in this House passed last month on a straight party-line vote represents misguided values. House Republicans sought to cut an arbitrary amount of funding and did so with a meat ax, indiscriminately attacking worthwhile investments, giving no concern to the tremendously negative impact this irresponsible attack will have on our economy. In the race for ever-increasing and arbitrary cuts, they have demonstrated they know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Moody's Analytics said that this approach would cost the Nation 700,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute said 800,000 jobs. Goldman Sachs said the long-term Republican plan would lower economic growth by 2 percent while increasing unemployment by 1 percent. Even the conservative Club for Growth called it a "mistake," stating that "cutting spending is important, but economic growth is even more important."

The need for fiscal discipline, of course, is clear. We must return to a long-term path of fiscal responsibility to reduce deficits, but we must not sac-

rifice our values and our future all in the name of deficit reduction.

Where Americans value health protections, the Republican CR slashes funding for food safety inspection, community health centers, women's health programs, and the National Institutes of Health.

Where Americans value national security, the Republican plan eliminates funding for local police officers and firefighters protecting our communities and slashes funding for nuclear nonproliferation, air marshals, and Customs and Border Protection. Where Americans value the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make to protect us, the Republican plan slashes funding to assist homeless veterans.

Where Americans value a focus on job creation, the Republican plan slashes funds for job training and dramatically reduces educational support. Where Americans value transportation improvements, the Republican plan slashes funding for infrastructure improvements and eliminates the Federal commitment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Where Americans value clean air and water, the Republican plan destroys the Nation's long-fought environment protections. In fact, according to the organization Republicans for Environmental Protection, the Republican plan represents an unprecedented assault on America's environment.

The Republican plan defunds the landmark Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, a joint effort of localities, States, and the Federal Government to protect and preserve America's largest estuary. In fact, that plan goes further and repeals longstanding Clean Water Act health protections, such as the ability to enact standards for arsenic pollution, lead pollution, and acid mine drainage in water supplies.

The Republican plan also repeals much of the Clean Air Act, including the EPA's ability to protect us from

□ 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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mercury pollution, soot, and greenhouse gases. In fact, the CR even reveals the ability to monitor and track greenhouse gases, presumably because if you are not allowed to verify a potential problem, it must not exist.

Where Americans value energy independence, the Republican plan endangers our security. Through the existing Clean Air Act, we are reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil through improved fuel efficiency standards. An agreement to improve fuel efficiency by 30 percent by 2016 will result in American car owners saving \$3,000 per vehicle and will reduce the Nation's oil dependence by 77 billion gallons of gasoline for vehicles produced from 2012 through 2016. This efficiency improvement will keep \$9.9 billion from being sent to OPEC countries like Libya and Iran unless the Republican plan succeeds in overturning those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution passed 2 weeks ago is not responsible. It sacrifices our Nation's values, our health, our security, our economy, our transportation needs, our environmental plans, and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But now we have a chance to work together in a bipartisan fashion—Republicans and Democrats working with the Senate—to reduce the deficit and in a conscientious manner. Let's work together to reach a compromise on funding the Federal Government that addresses the Nation's debt while preserving American values.

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 7 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 at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, before Whom all creation bows, and the Father of all humanity, another week of life and testing unfolds before us.

With the breath of spring upon us, may Congress be given fresh vision on how to address the needs of Your people and, as a good steward of national resources, be delivered from alien forces and the tyranny of money.

By respecting the goodness of Your creation and recognizing Your image in each person, make this Nation an instrument of peace and an ambassador of reconciliation in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

CALLING ON TRANSPARENCY FROM THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we're coming up on the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

President Obama, during the 2008 Presidential campaign, repeatedly promised that this would be an open and transparent process. He acknowledged the people's right to know. In fact, he said over and over again, "not negotiating behind closed doors but bringing all parties together so that the American people can see what the choices are."

"So that the American people can see what the choices are."

But instead of doing that, in May of 2009, a secret meeting of six special interest groups down at the White House. In September of that year, I began sending letters. In January of 2010, I filed a resolution of inquiry so we could see what went on in those meetings and what the deal was. But, unfortunately, we were shut down.

This year, now under new leadership of our Speaker and Chairman UPTON of

the Energy and Commerce Committee, once again we're asking the White House to voluntarily provide us that information. And what did they respond? They said it would be too "vast and expensive." So they acknowledged the information is there; they just don't want to go get it.

Is this the type of transparency that the President campaigned on? I think not.

It's time for the White House to make those documents available to those of us in the House who have been asking for them for almost 2 years' time. Transparency is, indeed, a two-way street.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DAVID BRODER, DEAN OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, back in 1979, after I had narrowly lost my first election to Congress, I came to Washington, and I went to The Washington Post and I had the opportunity to meet David Broder, the dean of the Washington press corps.

Mr. Broder very kindly took me on a tour of The Washington Post newsroom, spent about a half hour with me, and that meeting left an indelible impression on me.

I read the words of the writer and commentator Mark Shields, who the other day said that David Broder, who, as we all know, passed away last week, never fell victim to the disease of self-importance.

I heard that he spent a great deal of time with young reporters, but here I was a young defeated congressional candidate, and he spent time with me. When I had the chance to go on to the Rules Committee, he said, Well, it's a great opportunity you'll find, but remember that committee up there is very small by design. It's to keep us and the press corps out.

Well, I have to say that Mr. Broder, over the years, provided me with friendship and a lot of great advice. His performances before the gridiron were legendary, and I know that he's someone who will be missed all the way across the board.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the Broder family. And the press corps is a lesser place for his passing.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL). 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 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

SPECIALIST JAKE ROBERT VELLOZA POST OFFICE

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 793) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 793

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST JAKE ROBERT VELLOZA POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza 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 "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 793, introduced by the gentlelady from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boule-

vard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office." The bill is cosponsored by the entire California State delegation and was, favorably, without amendment, reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform last Thursday, March 10.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office in Inverness for Army Specialist Velloza to honor a true American hero and his service to our country.

Jake Robert Velloza was born on June 21, 1986, in Santa Rosa, California; and he grew up in Inverness. From a young age, he knew that he wanted to serve his country in the military. His high school football coach recalled after his death: "He was set on his goals. He was one of those young men who knew what he wanted to do and did it. Service to his country is what appealed to him."

Specialist Velloza enlisted in the Army in 2006 and was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas. Tragically, on May 2, 2009, Specialist Velloza was shot and killed by enemy forces while on his second tour of duty in Mosul, Iraq. He was 22 years old, and left behind his fiancée, Danielle Erwin, whom he had proposed to just 6 months prior to his tragic death. For his bravery and service to his country, Specialist Velloza was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, both of which were presented to his parents, Robert and Susan Velloza.

Mr. Speaker, having a father who fought and served in World War II, along with three brothers who are all combat veterans of the Vietnam war, it is a privilege for me to stand here today before this body and honor the memory of a true American hero. As the Representative of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I have the honor of representing many of our brave retired servicemembers who were based out of MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, just a few miles west of my district.

The men and women who were once based out of MacDill and those who currently work there have much in common with Specialist Velloza, a courageous young man who made the ultimate sacrifice promoting freedom and protecting our great Nation.

I am grateful for the service of Specialist Velloza and for all of those who serve and protect us each and every day. I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I would like to thank the gentleman for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 793, which would rename the

United States Postal Service facility at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office Building.

The measure before us was first introduced by my colleague and friend, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY from California, on February 17, 2011. The bill is cosponsored by all 52 members of the California delegation. Further, H.R. 793 was taken up by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 10, 2011, and was reported out of the committee on the same day.

I would like to briefly highlight some of the achievements and honorable service of Specialist Velloza. The only son of Robert and Susan Velloza, Specialist Jake Velloza was a lifelong resident of Inverness, California. Specialist Velloza graduated from high school in 2004 and attended the College of Marin before enlisting in the Army in 2006. Specialist Velloza was a member of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division stationed out of Fort Hood, Texas. Army Specialist Velloza was serving in Mosul, Iraq, when he was killed in action by enemy fire on May 2, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this young man's bravery and accomplishments, I ask that we pass the underlying bill without reservation and pay tribute to the commitment and sacrifice made by Specialist Velloza on behalf of our country.

I urge the passage of H.R. 793.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this measure, the gentlewoman from California, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to introduce and shepherd to the floor H.R. 793, a bill paying tribute to an American hero in my home district.

On May 2, 2009, Army Specialist Jake Robert Velloza of Inverness, California, was shot and killed during an attack by Iraqi soldiers near the city of Mosul. He was 22 years old and on his second tour in Iraq. He was the only child of Bob and Susan Velloza. He was engaged to be married to Danielle Erwin, proposing to her on the Golden Gate Bridge, between deployments, 6 months before his death.

Jake was a stand-out athlete at Tomales High School like his father before him. He attended the College of Marin, and following in his grandfather's footsteps, worked at the North Marin Water District. Yet he knew from the time he was in his teens that he wanted to serve, and he joined the Army in 2006. Jake knew that he might not make it back home.

He left behind a moving poem, full of courage and grace, that was read at his funeral. In it, he comforted his family and his friends by saying: "Don't grieve for me now for I am free. Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow."

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone knows my strong feelings about our Nation's policies toward Afghanistan and Iraq, but my opposition to these wars is matched in intensity only by my admiration and support for the men and women risking their lives to fight them. And that's why, when members of Jake's church and others in the community approached my office about honoring his memory, we went right to work.

I was proud to introduce legislation last month to name the post office at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office." I am grateful to all my colleagues in the California delegation for cosponsoring and to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, especially Chairman ISSA, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and Member LYNCH, for approving the bill last week.

I urge all my House colleagues to approve this designation with the hope that the Senate will soon follow to make sure this proud soldier's service and sacrifice are never forgotten. Please pass H.R. 793.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I again urge all Members to support passage of H.R. 793.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Ross) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 793.

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. ROSS of Florida. 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.

PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF GERALD R. FORD

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 27

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF GERALD R. FORD FROM THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN FOR PLACEMENT IN UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Gerald R. Ford furnished by the people of Michigan for

placement in the United States Capitol in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the people of Michigan for providing this commemoration of one of Michigan's most eminent persons.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Michigan is authorized to use the rotunda of the Capitol on May 3, 2011, for a presentation ceremony for the statue accepted under this section. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony.

(c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The Architect of the Capitol shall provide for the display of the statue accepted under this section in the rotunda of the Capitol, in accordance with the procedures described in section 311(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 2132(e)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol.

President Gerald R. Ford was a distinguished Member and minority leader of this Chamber, a man of the House. He was Vice President of the United States and our 38th President. A proud citizen of the great State of Michigan, President Ford served this Nation at a time of great national pain and turmoil. He ably served and helped us heal our wounds.

This resolution allows, at the direction of the people of Michigan, the Rotunda to be used for a ceremony in President Ford's honor on May 3 of this year. It also allows for the statue to be permanently displayed as part of the prestigious and historic national Statuary Hall collection.

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution, introduced by my colleague from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and cosponsored by the other members of the Michigan delegation, should garner overwhelming bipartisan support. So I thank Mr. UPTON for introducing it, and I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 27.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I write to formally notify you that the Committee on House Administration hereby waives further committee consideration of H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, in order that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan, served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1949 to 1973 and also served as House minority leader from 1965 until he was nominated by the President and confirmed by Congress to serve as President Richard Nixon's Vice President. Representative Ford was a highly respected Member who was well-liked by his colleagues. He was the first person actually selected to fill a vacancy in the Vice Presidency under provisions of the 25th Amendment.

Upon President Nixon's resignation in 1974, Mr. Ford assumed the Presidency and served until January 20, 1977. He is the only person to have served as President without first having won a national election.

Mr. Speaker, Title 2 of the United States Code allows each State to have no more than two statues of their choosing to represent their State in the national Statuary Hall collection in the U.S. Capitol. The Ford statue, like that of other former U.S. Presidents, will be displayed in the Capitol Rotunda following the presentation ceremony on May 3, 2011.

H. Con. Res. 27 follows the customary practice of accepting the statue into the collection and setting the date for use of the Rotunda for the ceremony. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the original sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise this afternoon in support of this resolution which authorizes the placement of a statue of President Gerald R. Ford in the Capitol Rotunda, with an unveiling ceremony which is set for May 3.

I'm pleased that this resolution has garnered the support of the entire Michigan delegation who have lent their names as original cosponsors. This is a testament to President Ford's high esteem among Michiganders and Americans of all political stripes.

As one who has the honor and privilege of representing some of the very

same people in southwest Michigan that President Ford did during his tenure in the House—and I would note that Mr. HUIZENGA is going to speak after me, and he represents some of the same areas; certainly Mr. AMASH from Michigan has some of that same district and, I believe, Mr. CAMP as well—it gives us pleasure to witness this fitting tribute to Michigan's native son.

President Ford is a Michigan original and a model for all those called to public service. A seemingly ordinary American who unexpectedly found himself in the Presidency at one of our Nation's most tumultuous times, President Ford led with honesty and integrity. By standing above the political fray, he allowed a wounded Nation to heal.

And I would just note that before he lay in state in the Capitol, his coffin actually passed through this Chamber on the way to lie in state in the Rotunda, and it is fitting for Michigan to bring his statue here and for us to pass this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to yield such time as he may consume to the dean of the Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California for her kindness in yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be one of the sponsors of the legislation before us. I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 27, a resolution providing for the acceptance of a statue of the Honorable Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol. It is an honor to be lead sponsor on this resolution with my dear friend and colleague across the aisle, Mr. UPTON. It is a fitting tribute to the bipartisanship and the decency that Gerald Ford espoused as a Member of the Congress for 25 years, and then as Vice President and then President of the United States, that the resolution has the support of the entire Michigan delegation and of the people we in the Michigan delegation serve here in the Congress.

The people of Michigan chose a fine President, wise legislator, and a decent and extraordinary man to serve as one of the two statues representing the people of Michigan in the United States Capitol. Millions of people each year will have the privilege of viewing the statue and be reminded of the thoughtfulness, courage, and sincerity with which he led the Nation during his Presidency. Indeed, much like today, President Ford took office at a time of divisiveness and uncertainty, and he helped to heal our Nation and to bring us together.

□ 1720

I was fortunate to serve with President Ford in the House of Representa-

tives. And though we disagreed on many issues, I was always able to say that I and my colleagues here respected President Ford for his decency, and for his ability and desire to bring all people together at the table and to form consensus across the aisle. When he became President, the Congress helped work with him to enact a number of bipartisan laws, such as the Privacy Act, the Federal Elections Campaign Act, the Housing and Community Development Act, which established the Community Development Block Grant program, and many others.

President Ford and I worked particularly closely during his presidency on energy matters. He was an honorable man whose word was good, and his administration always kept in mind the best concerns and the best interests of the people of the United States. During that administration, we passed the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, EPCA, which established the Nation's first fuel-economy standards.

At a time when our country is deeply divided, I am pleased to have this moment to reflect on Gerald Ford's legacy. He never abandoned his beliefs, and he never based his decisions on anything except the best interests of the Nation. He once said that "our great Republic is a government of laws, not men." It is wise that we should remember these good words and pay tribute to Gerald R. Ford by accepting his statue in the halls of this great institution. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this House Resolution that is going to help put a statue of President Gerald R. Ford in the United States Capitol Rotunda.

Mr. Speaker, before I came to the Congress, I had the great honor and privilege of serving as Michigan's secretary of State. And sort of an odd appendage of that job was serving as our State's official historian, so we did all the historic markers. I tried to get around the State of Michigan to go to some of the dedications, particularly the ones that I thought were so outstanding. I recall with such a great amount of pride having the historic marker dedicated for Gerald Ford's boyhood home. A couple of young people had bought the home and completely refurbished it to the period when Gerald Ford was there. And so we are standing there on the porch of his boyhood home in Grand Rapids, and there was a very large crowd assembled of family, friends, neighbors, and others that were there to see the President, who came, both the President and Mrs. Ford came that day.

I had just gotten elected as the secretary of State, and here I was intro-

ducing him to this crowd of people there. He couldn't have been more humble and more enjoyable to listen to because he was talking about playing football out in the streets there, and how much he enjoyed that and the rough and tumble of playing football then. And of course then he went on to a couple of national championships at the University of Michigan. Go Blue!

But from there, you think about where he came from and what he achieved in his life, and really I think the humility and the honor that he had that took him from playing football, from those streets to a couple of national championships, and then to a historic and very remarkable and impactful legislative career, serving here in this House, in this Chamber, and then on to be the Vice President of the United States, and then the President of the United States. It is really an American story. It's just an American story, a true American success story.

President Ford took over the presidency at a time when our Nation was reeling from the nightmare of Watergate, looking for somebody to give us some stability, some normalcy during those terrible times when the honor and the dignity of the Office of the President had been so severely damaged. And he managed to repair America's faith, I think, in our leaders because he was so clearly an honest man, a true American patriot, an honorable man. He was the right leader at a very difficult time in our Nation's history. He reflected so well the humble and the patriotic, honest people of the great State of Michigan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. I think this statue of President Gerald Ford joining the other statues in Statuary Hall is certainly a fitting and appropriate thing. It reflects the will of the people of Michigan and I think is an honor that is long overdue to President Gerald R. Ford.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I appreciate the chairman, the gentleman from California, allowing me this opportunity to speak in favor of House Continuing Resolution 27.

Mr. Speaker, this is a special opportunity for me, as a freshman Member of this body, in many different ways. First and foremost, it's special to me because growing up in west Michigan, my hometown of Zeeland was represented by the gentleman who went from Congressman to Vice President to President Ford at various times. And my father, who was a city councilman for many, many years during that time, actually had an opportunity to work with him and have a bit of a relationship. So I grew up around the dining room table with this lore about

Gerald Ford and what it meant to be involved and to give back to your community.

The second reason why it was very important to me was because of that time and that era. Being born in 1969, some of my earliest memories surrounded that turmoil of Vietnam and of Watergate, and of that time when, at the time then-Congressman Ford becoming Vice President and then becoming President of the United States. It very much shaped me as I was interested in the political process.

The third thing that really makes this special to me was, later on, just prior to this, I was granted the privilege of serving my community in the Michigan House of Representatives, where I voted to replace Zachary Chandler, who had been a Governor, and the statue that represented him, I voted to replace that with Gerald Ford. Now this was absolutely nothing against Governor Chandler. He was a great man in and of himself at the time. He was an abolitionist, fought against slavery, and many other things. But we felt this was such a special opportunity to grant to President Ford. So it was really an honor to be able to do that.

The other couple of things that make this special for me is, I had the opportunity to attend his funeral here at the National Cathedral. It was a very moving time. It was especially interesting to see people from both sides of the aisle talk about him with such respect and the way that he handled himself as such a gentleman. Even though he was tough, he came in and did it in a very respectful way. And I thought that was a true honor. I then that same day flew back to Grand Rapids and was able to pass in front of his casket at the Gerald R. Ford museum in downtown Grand Rapids, where there were literally hours and hours and hours of lines. I literally stood in line for over 4 hours at midnight as this line, through the entire night, snaked past his casket to pay honor and respect. Then the next day, as the burial was happening, crowds of tens of thousands of people literally lined the streets in honor of this man and Mrs. Ford as well.

And now we arrive at this point, the true honor of being able to be in this body, to have been an original cosponsor of this legislation, to be able to be here to witness the placing of this statue here in this great Capitol, a place where his heart really lied, a place where he served as minority leader for a number of years in this very Chamber. And it's truly an honor to be here and to be a part of this historic time. We are so thankful that we can pay honor and respect to this wonderful man who served his country nobly.

□ 1730

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, President Ford was a wonderful person, as everyone has said here. He was a remarkable man. And one of the most remarkable things about him was the humility with which he carried himself through his entire life.

An All-American football player, he was criticized for being clumsy by the national press at times, when in fact it was because he had a trick knee as a result of injuries that he suffered. But he never complained about that.

I'd like to just mention one little anecdote that I think brings to the attention of people what a genuine person he was. We all know that President Ford took a rather controversial, and I would say courageous, act in granting a pardon to President Nixon because he thought it was best for this country.

Now, some time thereafter, my father actually happened to be the physician attending to former President Nixon when he was suffering from his phlebitis attack which led to a near-death occasion while he was at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

President Ford heard about that, and President Ford was en route to California, and he immediately summoned his aides to him on Air Force One and said, I want to go visit Richard Nixon. His staff replied, Mr. President, we would advise against it. You've already received political heat for pardoning Mr. Nixon. And a personal visit like this would draw attention to that, and we would recommend against it.

In response, Gerald Ford said, Richard Nixon is my friend; he is in trouble. I want to see him.

So his aides then said, well, Mr. President, perhaps he is not well enough to see you. And President Ford said to his staff, call his doctor, call Pat Nixon, ask whether it would be good for me to visit him, and I will abide by their decision.

They called up and talked to Mrs. Nixon, who then called my dad and asked whether it would be a good idea. And my dad said it might be the best thing for his health that could happen. And when that was told to Gerald Ford, he said, make it happen. And he did. He came and he visited Richard Nixon at the hospital. After it was over, he turned to his aide, his Chief of Staff, Dick Cheney, and said, that's as close to death as I've ever seen anybody, because President Nixon was very, very sick at the time.

My dad called me up after that was over and said, this was a wonderful visit. It will help the health of President Nixon. And then he said to me, this—probably politically incorrect to say today, but my dad said, That President Ford, he's a real man's man. What he meant by that was he was a genuine person who, irrespective of the political consequences, decided to go forward with what most people would consider to be a genuine act of friendship, trying to help a friend in need, a friend who was in difficulty and, in fact, almost on the doorstep of death.

But that was Gerald Ford. He acted the way we would all hope that we would act, without concern for the consequences politically. Gerald Ford was, in fact, a man's man.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge our colleagues to support this resolution so that we might have the presence of Gerald Ford's statue here in our Nation's Capitol so that generations from now children can come and visit and ask questions about who that man, President Ford, really was, and perhaps they will get the real picture.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Speaker, President Ford served the State of Michigan and the United States with distinction during a time of immense upheaval. Placing a statue of President Ford in the Capitol is a great tribute and is well earned.

I admire President Ford's willingness to take principled stands for what he believed was right, even if those decisions were unpopular at the time. I am honored to represent the same district that President Ford served, and I will continue to strive to live up to his principled example.

Thank you to the people of Michigan for providing this statue. It is my hope that this statue will serve as a symbol of political courage to future Capitol visitors.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 27.

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. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. 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 5 o'clock and 36 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. BISHOP of Utah) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 48, ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 112-33) on the resolution (H. Res. 167) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 48) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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. 793, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 27, by the yeas and nays; approval of the Journal, de novo.

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

SPECIALIST JAKE ROBERT VELLOZA 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. 793) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office," 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 Florida (Mr. ROSS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, answered present 1, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 175]

YEAS—394

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren

Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Brown (FL)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver

Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dingert
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy

Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Palazzo
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Brown (FL)
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Inslie
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn

Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Oliver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson

Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souterland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Weiner
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Brown (GA)

NOT VOTING—37

Akin
Bilirakis
Boustany
Buchanan
Capuano
Costello
Cravaack
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Doyle
Engel
Flake
Giffords
Green, Al

Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hunter
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (IL)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Loeb sack
Lowey
Manzullo
Marchant
McDermott
Murphy (CT)

Neal
Pascarell
Paul
Rush
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Tierney
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Yarmuth

□ 1853

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.

Stated for:

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 175, my flight was delayed due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN JAPAN

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence for the injured, the missing, and for all those who have perished in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit our endearing friend, the democratic nation of Japan, this past Friday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the Members please rise and join us in a moment of silence.

PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUTE OF GERALD R. FORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 176]

YEAS—396

Ackerman
Adams
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishkek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Bueshon
Buerkle
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart

Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxo
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinches
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huiwegen (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)

King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff

Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Weiner
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—36

Aderholt
Akin
Bishop (NY)
Boustany
Buchanan
Capuano
Costello
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Doyle
Engel
Flake
Giffords

Gingrey (GA)
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hunter
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (IL)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Loeb sack
Manzullo
McDermott

Murphy (PA)
Neal
Pascarella
Paul
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Tierney
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 176, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 176, my flight was delayed due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 175 and 176.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, on March 14th I missed the two rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 175 on passage of H.R. 793, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office." Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 176, on passage of H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2011 I missed rollcall votes 175

and 176. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on both.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes: rollcall vote 175—H.R. 793—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the "Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office". Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this bill; rollcall vote 176—H. Con. Res. 27—Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on this bill.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO JERRY BELLUNE, JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, citizens who cherish fairness in the media are rejoicing that Jerry Bellune, editor emeritus of the Lexington County Chronicle, has been named Journalist of the Year. The coveted honor was announced March 5 at the South Carolina Press Association's annual awards luncheon held in Columbia. Bellune was recognized for his more than half-century involvement in the industry.

Bellune and his wife and business partner, MacLeod Bellune, have built the Chronicle into one of the best local newspapers in America, with more than 300 national and State awards. Their son, Mark Bellune, is continuing the tradition of professionalism with its creed: A Conservative Choice, Not a Liberal Echo.

Bellune has been a tireless champion for taxpayers' dollars not being the government's money but clearly the people's money. His longtime crusade opposing excessive spending was endorsed last week by the Student Congressional Advisory Board of the University of South Carolina Student Government, which issued a thoughtful report to promote debt reduction as the student body's greatest concern.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WEST BANK MURDERS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the horrific murders that took place in Israel this past weekend. Late Friday night during the Jewish Sabbath, Palestinian terrorists murdered five members of a family, including two young children and an infant, by stabbing them to death in their beds while they slept in their village in the northern West Bank.

This grisly murder, that young children can be killed along with their parents for merely living in a place they are not wanted. The world community must stand together in rejecting such violence and state unequivocally that negotiations are the only acceptable way forward to resolve this conflict.

We must also reject the notion that the West Bank must be rid of all Israelis—Juden free, where have we heard that before?—before peace can be had in the Middle East. Palestinian leaders have perpetuated this dangerous myth while Israelis, by contrast, have embraced their Arab neighbors as complete and equal citizens since 1948.

Mr. Speaker, the Palestinians must not be allowed to cleanse the West Bank of all Jewish life before they will accept a peace agreement with Israel. The world community must call on them to condemn these horrific attacks and immediately return to the negotiating table, which they have avoided for far too long.

TRAGEDY IN VANSANT, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia and the law enforcement community suffered a terrible loss yesterday. I was deeply saddened to learn that two deputies of the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department were killed and two others were seriously injured in the line of duty in Vansant, Virginia.

My condolences go out to the families of Deputy William Ezra Stiltner and Deputy Cameron Neil Justus, who lost their lives yesterday. A 10-year veteran of the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Justus is survived by his wife, daughter, and stepson. A 7-year veteran, Deputy Stiltner is survived by his wife and his two children. My prayers are with their families.

Also, my continued thoughts and prayers are with Deputy Eric Dwayne Rasnake and Deputy Shane Earl Charles, as they recover from this horrific shooting, as well as the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department and the entire community.

This act of violence is a reminder of the dangers our law enforcement officials face daily. As our community grieves, we will not forget these offi-

cers' service, their selflessness, and their sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

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

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for earning berths in both the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournament as champions of the Sun Belt Conference. UALR's sweep of the Sun Belt titles makes them the first school to do so since 2008.

For the Lady Trojans, this is their first Sun Belt championship and their second consecutive trip to the tournament. For the Trojans, this is also their first Sun Belt championship and their first visit to the NCAA tournament since 1990.

Congratulations to coaches Steve Shields and Joe Foley, as well as athletic director Chris Peterson, for their leadership this championship season. Congratulations, also, to the young men and women of UALR basketball. Thank you for representing your school, the City of Little Rock, and the State of Arkansas.

We are rooting for you.

□ 1910

THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the days of merry old England, King James commissioned the translation of the Bible into English. He made it possible for the common man to have access to the Scriptures. This is the 400-year anniversary of the 1611 translation of the King James Version of the Bible. Explorers and then Christians seeking religious freedom carried the King James version to the New World. Millions of American school kids used the King James for decades as a basis for learning English. Pioneers carried it in covered wagons while taming the West. In some families, the only book they had was the King James Bible. U.S. military took pocket copies of the version in both World Wars. And hundreds of courtrooms use the Bible to swear in witnesses. Presidents still place their hand on a King James Bible at their inauguration. For 400 years, the King James Bible has made it possible for the Judeo-Christian beliefs of the Good Book to be read and studied in the English language.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDEN PRAIRIE HOCKEY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Eden Prairie High School boys' hockey team on winning the 2A State championship. It's the team's second State title in 3 years.

The Eden Prairie Eagles were well matched in the championship game against the Duluth East Greyhounds. With the game heading into triple overtime, the Eagles came out on top 3-2. This game would actually prove to be the longest championship game in the 67-year history of the Minnesota State hockey tournament.

I also want to recognize Eden Prairie senior Kyle Rau, who was named Minnesota's Mr. Hockey by a group of NCAA Division I coaches and NHL scouts. There's no doubt that Kyle's 41 season goals, including five in the State tournament, played a strong role in the Eagles' championship victory.

Congratulations to Coach Smith and Eden Prairie's student athletes. We're all very proud of you.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in the classic movie by Frank Capra called "It's a Wonderful Life," the main character, the hero, played by Jimmy Stewart, contemplated the question of what would the world be like if you had not have lived. In his case, what would his town have been like. And I think that's the question we 435 Members of Congress have to answer: What would Congress be like if you were not serving? Would you go on spending money—right now, borrowing forty cents for every dollar we spend; a national debt of 96 percent of GDP; a deficit right now of \$1.6 trillion. What if you had not served? Would it make a difference? That's what the debate is about right now. Eighty-seven new Members who came to Congress to change this spending habit, to say "no," and Democrats and Republicans have their fingerprints on overspending, but it is now time for changing.

There's another popular movie called "The Blind Side" in which the main character was drafted by Ole Miss University to protect the quarterback on his blind side. That's what these Members need to do, Mr. Speaker, is protect the blind side of the taxpayers from absolute disaster.

IRRESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Tomorrow, we're going to take up another short-term continuing resolution. In the meantime, today, tomorrow, the next day, we will be borrowing \$4 billion a day

that we don't have to pay the deficit that this administration is running. We're going to debate tomorrow about \$6 billion here. Well, that's a day and a half of deficit. We're going to bring in around \$2.1 trillion for this year, and we're going to spend \$3.6 trillion. It is irresponsible. It is reprehensible.

For years, we've heard: For the good of the children. It is for the good of the children that this body man up across the aisles and quit spending money that our children don't even have. Let's vote "no" until we can do some real saving.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, Mr. KING, to talk about an American hero.

HONORING CORPORAL JOHN MICHAEL PECK

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Judge CARTER. It's with honor I take the floor tonight. I very much appreciate your yielding, and I understand your great respect for the troops and the pain that you suffered down at Fort Hood and the involvement that you have had in each and every engagement standing up for our military, standing up for our country, standing up for our national security.

Tonight, I step to the floor with your acknowledgment, Judge CARTER, to honor a real American hero. This American hero that we honor tonight here on the floor of the United States Congress is an American hero, Corporal John Michael Peck, who's with us here in the audience tonight up in the corner and watching the proceedings here in the House of Representatives. Corporal Peck is a United States Marine, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor this American hero who is from Rockford, Illinois. Corporal John Michael Peck is a member of, again, the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. His mother, Lisa Peck, is here with us tonight. She was a single mother for 16 years. Michael was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, and grew up in Rockford, Illinois. After graduating from Antioch High School, he went into the Marine Corps. On August 23, 2007, in Iraq, he received his first Purple Heart after an explosion and he received a TBI injury. Then, on May 24, 2010, he was in Helmand province in Afghanistan, where he received his second Purple Heart after an IED explosion nearly cost Corporal Peck his life. John lost all four of his limbs.

Against all odds, and with the help of his mother, he climbed out into the light. His progress has been incredible. His fellow marines talk of his prowess in the weight room. He is truly a man possessed. His attitude and his courage

have made all the difference. Like all these young men and women, the ones who do the best are the ones whose loved ones are there with them each day. And Lisa has been there from day one. There should be a medal of honor for those who stand by their children and put their lives on hold to help them rebuild theirs.

John is one of three quads who are over at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital. The other two are Brendon Marocco and Todd Nicely. Their heart and their souls are something of beauty to behold. I ask that this Nation continue to stand with and for those troops who stood up for us; those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, those heroes, such as Corporal John Michael Peck, who paid such a high price, and who rewards us with his indomitable spirit. And the strength of family and the love of a mother, all here in this story, however sad, however tragic, it lifts my heart to know that we have Americans that will serve us in this way, and Americans who inspire us with their spirit in the aftermath of such a service.

God bless you, Corporal.

I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell in honor of Corporal Peck be placed in the RECORD.

WHAT I GAVE

On battlefields of honor bright
There are but all of those Magnificent's, who
so fight!
Who but so bring their light
All in what they gave!
Who now so lie in such cold soft quiet
graves
Teaching us all how to behave!
Whose family's pain, is something that only
heaven can take!
And then, there are all of those who are so
left
So left with such pain, so close to death
. . . . living day by day!
All because of what they gave!
And the ones who live without arms and legs!
Without eyes and ears, and strong faces
. . . . as they
All for what they
gave!
Whose, most brilliant valor no one can ever
so take away!
And all of those children, who now so live
without moms and dads who
wake!
And all of those parents who've so lost the
greatest loves of all, as have they!
As it's for them we now so weep, this very
day!
All because of what they gave!
So in the night, as you lay your head down
to rest
While, all of your loved ones you so
caress
And you realize why you are so blessed, and
what you have
Remember, all of America's very best!
And what they gave!
And John, on that morning after when you
awoke
And somehow so tried to cope
And so saw, all what this war had
invoked
As your great heart, to you so spoke!
So spoke of what you gave!
Quivering, so back then oh how the
tears you made!

As they rolled down your fine strong
chin
And your brave heart so began to pound, yes
back then!
As somehow you so tried to comprehend!
Wishing somehow that it would all so go
away!
All for what you gave!
As you I had to so make a choice!
Should, I live or should I die?
As you who so heard that most inner
voice
Telling you telling you to somehow
stay!
As it so spoke to you, all about faith and
courage!
Telling you, to somehow not to be discour-
aged!
As you, United States Marine so
marched off all out on your way!
While, your mother with tears in eyes
so began to pray!
And she stood behind you John, each and
every blessed day
All so you could have a fighting chance, and
find your way
As you Marine, all in your magnificent
shades of green got up on that
very day!
As you took your very first steps, with your
most courageous heart leading the
way!
The way to recovery!
As you so chose life on that day!
As your new war had just begun!
As from out of the darkness, you so marched
. . . . our Father's Son!
To so represent him, until your last and so
dying days
To So Teach Us All!
To So Reach Us All!
To So Beseech Us All!
So Each, and Every Day!
With what you gave!
For you were so surely put upon this
earth
To so teach us all what comes first!
All in your amazing grace!
As our tears roll down our face!
Because, each new morning as you
awaken
One more step forward, yes dear John you so
take!
All out there upon your most magnificent
ways
Because, you will walk and you will
run
And it's no over, and your are not done!
You United States Marine, one of the best
things this country has ever seen!
Yes, arms and legs we all need!
But, without a heart one can not so surely
breathe!
As with your heart you now so lead!
Just moments are all we have!
Just seconds, to so find the path! Our way!
To crush hearts! To turn the good into the
bad!
All in our thoughts, and deeds!
To win wars all in our parts we
play
To but give to this our world, but a better
day!
Don't cry for me!
For I am the one who so made that choice!
And so raised my hand, and with my voice!
All for liberty
And for something far far greater
than me
But, to be A United States Marine! Oooha!
All to defend, my sweet Country Tis of Thee!
And I'd do all again you see!
For there are no regrets inside of me!
For wearing those most magnificent, shades
of green!

As a United States Marine!
 And, for all of my brothers who have so
 died
 Who in such cold dark graves of honor now
 so lie!
 I live for thee!
 As I go out upon my way!
 I carry you all in my heart and soul but with
 me each day
 Listen closely, as you will hear God's voice
 inside of me
 As I make the best of what he has so left to
 me
 And What My Life
 Has So To Say
 As a hero a was not trying to be, but this is
 what my Lord has chose for me!
 Yea, I'm not half the man I used to be!
 For my true sum, has grown far much more
 greater don't you see?
 All with what is so left inside of me!
 As this is but the high price we must pay to
 be free!
 Were but my fine gifts my two strong
 arms and legs
 And all of this I so gave!
 Don't cry for me!
 Yea, Spider Man aint got nothing on
 me!
 In life what steps, have you so taken?
 What difference is your short life, upon this
 earth so making?
 All in the steps that you are taking!
 Upon, your way!
 You see, I rather run in Heaven with my
 Lord
 And limp, here upon this earth each new
 morn!
 For in Heaven, you need not arms or legs!
 And, that's where I'm going when I finish my
 last and most final days!
 All because of
 What I Gave!

□ 1920

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Congressman KING. That was a wonderful thing to do. He is a wonderful American hero, Mr. Peck. We are very proud to get to know him, and we wish him well. We are grateful for his spirit.

Tonight, we are going to talk again about the regulations that are going on in this country. I am very pleased to be joined by Congressman GEOFF DAVIS of the great State of Kentucky, which happens to be my father's home State. Congressman DAVIS is going to join us, and we are going to talk about a one-two punch that we hope to put together for regulations.

Right now, as we've been talking about in the past, we have a tool which allows this Congress to review certain major pieces of regulation that come from the regulators, that is, from the Departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It's called the Congressional Review Act. It allows Congress to review every new major Federal regulation issued by the government agencies and, by passage of joint resolution, to override that regulation.

The process you go through is that the Federal agencies submit to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the U.S. a comprehensive report on any major proposed rule. The Congress has 60 legislative days to pass a joint resolution disapproving the rule. The Senate must vote on a CR resolution of disapproval.

Now, that's kind of where this thing is right now, and that's the tool we have. We've been talking about that as we've been talking about the massive number of regulations that have just inundated this country since the beginning of this administration.

So, before I yield to my friend for a conversation about the REINS Act, which will be the reverse of that and a new tool—and I'll let him explain it—just let me tell you something about the amount of regulations that have been put into effect during the Obama administration.

It is an epidemic. The Federal Government has issued 3,360 new rules and regulations, an average of 13 new rules a day—78 of those new rules just last year. A “major rule” is a rule that, as I said, may result in having an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, a major increase in the cost of prices for consumers or significant adverse effects to the economy. By the way, we are just getting started, it seems, with regard to what ObamaCare is doing, and it is probably going to be the mother of all rulemaking instruments.

GEOFF DAVIS, Congressman DAVIS, has a new and better idea, a tool—although this is a great tool—that I think will function even better. So I am going to yield to Congressman GEOFF DAVIS whatever time he needs to consume to start our talking about the REINS Act.

That's not “rain” like we pray for over in Texas all the time, is it?

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I think it's more the “reins” you use in Texas to pull back on that bull or that horse that's getting away. It's appropriate to Kentucky, too, with our equine culture as well.

I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

To your point, when we talk about bills, like the health care bill that was forced through last year that has so many new rules that are going to be propagated over time and the challenges that we're facing with an increasing complexity of government, all of these rules are placing a burden on the consumer and are leaving virtually no recourse for voters and no recourse for our communities. The operationalized term would be “unfunded mandates,” but I think what we really have to come down to is looking at this as costs that are being levied that affect every area of our lives.

The last, probably, five or six administrations have seen a tremendous amount of growth in the amount of regulations. As you mentioned, over 3,000 new rules and regulations were queued up last year. This is a real concern that affects all of us. If we think about education and the challenges that our schools have today, with regard to No Child Left Behind, which was a well-intended bill in terms of goals of improving student performance, when that law was written into enough compromising or overly general

language to be thrown over the wall to the Department of Education, the detailed implementing of regulations moved to place a massive unfunded mandate on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which is for disabled children or for children who fall into that category.

It was supposed to be funded at 40 percent of the expected level. It has never gotten above 12 percent in any school district in Kentucky, in my congressional district. Those funds have to be reallocated from elsewhere; and in order to comply federally, we are seeing schools lay off teachers, cancel PE programs, and cancel other programs that are deemed nonessential for Federal compliance. This doesn't help our students. It doesn't help those the law was intended to help.

When we think about the EPA, certainly we can talk about greenhouse gas regulation. There is a case where there is a move on the part of the executive branch—regardless of whether a person is Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or an independent, the Constitution mandated that the legislature, both Houses of Congress, had power of the purse and the power to hold the executive branch accountable. The executive branch was to execute the laws, not make the laws.

When there was a Democratic supermajority in the House and in the Senate, what we were seeing was cap-and-trade, an energy taxation. The production of energy in this country was not able to be accomplished because there were not functional majorities in either Chamber for the President to sign a bill, which he said in his own campaign would necessarily cause utility rates to skyrocket.

Now we hear the announcement, well, we're going to go ahead and do this anyway. Then it comes home full circle in a way that has hit almost every community in the country in one way or another, and that's the issue of EPA compliance with stormwater or drainage mandates.

Again, these could be well intended, but we have to look at the regulations in context, what they want to achieve. In my own area of Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties, in my first year in Congress—and, actually, I'd been in Congress for about 2 months—the EPA imposed a consent decree on three Kentucky counties for \$800 million, in effect an \$800 million tax on one water and sewer district for these upgrades which, frankly, in most cases across our communities were entirely unnecessary at a standard way beyond what reality was and one that imposed a huge, huge burden on working families and on the poor.

This bothered me for years. We looked at different ways to deal with that. The Congressional Review Act was a good attempt, but the challenge that we've had with the CRA is that it has only worked one time to repeal a regulation. That was the Clinton era ergonomics rule. In that case, all the

stars lined up. We had a House that could pass it, a Senate that could pass it, and a President who was willing to sign the repeal of this regulation from a prior administration.

I want to come back to the constitutional point because here you have working families and, in fact, towns in my district where the compliance cost with the stormwater decree are actually more, in some cases, than the actual revenues of the budgets of the towns. We went back and forth with different ideas; and in August of 2009, a constituent of mine came into my office as we were working through different ways to look at reducing and relieving the regulatory burden on businesses, on citizens. Let's have regulations in the context of their costs and also one with scale.

This gentleman said to me, How come you all can't vote on these things?

The light bulb went on. We went back to work, approaching it in different ways and came up with the REINS Act. It stands for the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act. In the last Congress, it was H.R. 3765.

We started with the simple premise of major rules that have an economic impact of \$100 million or more cumulatively. Once the 60-day comment period is over, instead of being enforced upon a particular constituency, as they are today with very little interaction with industry and, frankly, with very little heeding of industry in the comment areas or in our communities—for example, for things like that stormwater bill, for things like No Child Left Behind, for things like net neutrality, for things like doing Card Check by regulation versus, again, going against the will of the people's elected representatives—what that would do is, before enforcement, force that rule back up to Capitol Hill under a joint resolution.

□ 1930

It's constitutional. It would have to pass in the House, pass in the Senate, and then go to the President's desk for signature. And what that would do is be able to give people back in the United States—Washington, D.C. was one time described as a 10-mile by 10-mile square surrounded by reality. Back in the world real, where our taxpayers live, where the jobs are created, they would now have people to hold accountable, the men in the House and the Senate, if these large rules that are imposing such significant economic burdens were imposed upon them.

So, as we moved forward, got a tremendous amount of support for that across the business community, across the legal community, citizens; and, frankly, local governments have lauded this, and we're looking forward to moving that forward. There was so much momentum that we had at the end of the last Congress that this was put into the Pledge to America and was reintroduced.

Let me back up, Senator JIM DEMINT introduced the Senate version of this intact; and then in the new Congress, we reintroduced a slightly improved version of the legislation in the House, and the identical bill was introduced by our new junior Senator from Kentucky, RAND PAUL, with 23 additional Senate cosponsors. We're up to 134 cosponsors in the House of this bill and have had two hearings in the Judiciary Committee about it where this discussion on ultimate accountability is there.

Before I yield back in this portion, the one thing I would share with you also is this is not a partisan bill. The opponents of the bill have tried to say it is anti-regulation or it is an attempt to go after the administration. It is not that at all. In the Bush administration, in the Clinton administration, in the Reagan administration, in the Carter administration—we can keep going on back—finding rules and regulations that were implemented outside what the original intent of the Congress had been. You know, in the past we could work around these rules and regulations. Economically, now, things are so tight and so tough we cannot afford to burden the competitiveness of our businesses any longer.

When we come back, I'll give you some examples of that that will personalize this to an additional degree, but I'm really glad you're holding this hour tonight to discuss the critical impact of regulations, a cost that's approaching \$2 trillion a year on the American economy. Frankly, the cost of regulation is substantially more than the annual tax revenue that is collected by the government.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for explaining this to us, and you hit on a bunch of points I think we need to keep reminding the American people about because we've all been out there living our lives, raising our kids, doing the things with our wives, and just getting caught up in living. And on the periphery, we hear of something that may interfere with our little business we formed or may interfere with a big business that we've got a job in that's going to cause issues, and we just tend to say Congress did it.

When, in reality, most of the things I believe that people hear those things about some rule that requires them to put up a barrier or like I had one guy tell me, They made me put up water retention barriers in the desert in New Mexico where it hadn't rained in 4 years. And he thought that was ridiculous; and I said, well, I kind of have to agree with that, and I guess there's some reason for it.

But the point is that wasn't done by Congress. That was done by one of these regulators you are talking about. When you write a rule or regulation that would cost this country, this society, \$100 million, then that has a major effect on some human being that lives in this country; and I think we have

the responsibility as the representatives of the people to take a look at that thing and decide if that's the right thing to do.

The way the Congressional Review Act is, they file it and then we have to take aggressive action to get a vote on that issue. By the REINS Act, it would be mandatory that it be filed and it must have a vote. There is no exception as I understand it.

So if something is going to change \$100 million or more of your life, you would think the guy you elected or gal that you voted for to come here and speak on your behalf ought to have something to say about it. That's why I like the REINS Act; it puts a responsible party responsible for the things that bureaucrats do. Bureaucrats have the ability to make these fancy rules that they're not responsible for. They write them; but then, you know, they've got a paycheck, they're civil servants, their job's protected with what I would argue is a sort of tenure after a certain period of time. They may even be represented by a labor union.

And so they're sitting here safe and sound; and when they write that regulatory act, they don't answer to any voters back home to decide whether they keep their job, providing a good act or a bad act. They and probably a panel of people they are working with decide this is a good idea.

But here's what's going on right now that has many of us very concerned. A lot of issues that now we're facing with regulation were issues we voted on in this Congress. We discussed in committees in the last 2 years when the Democrats were in charge of this House and the Senate and the Presidency, and those things they were not able to get passed through both Houses and signed by their President, the Democratic President, Mr. Obama, and yet now they're trying to do those same things by regulation; and the perfect example is CO₂.

The whole issue of greenhouse gases, basically they could not get a vote by both Houses of Congress to support calling greenhouse gases noxious gases that should be regulated or should be eliminated. So now they just passed a rule, or they're passing a rule, at the EPA and declaring it. They got one court to make a ruling in their favor; and with that, they're going forward on it. But that issue is in debate in this House today, and it will be in debate when the REINS Act brings it before this House for a vote.

That's why if we can get this passed—and I believe we will get support, bipartisan support, by both sides of the aisle, both in this House and in the Senate, and I'm very hopeful that the President will sign it because it's a tool that works for—doesn't matter what party you're in because, hey, I'm not going to sit here and tell you that Republican Presidents or Republican administrations haven't proposed bad regulations, because they have.

And it's not a party responsibility here. It's an individual Member's responsibility to make sure that we don't write regulations that are going to in such a way hinder our ability to do the things of commerce that keep jobs being created and so forth that we let the bureaucrats run the country. We elect them to run the country. They got hired for a job, and I think that anything that has this kind of influence on the economy requires a vote of the people, who said I will take responsibility for making the voice of the people in my district heard in Washington. You're not going to get that voice heard by the regulators. It's going to have to be here in Congress.

I commend my colleague, Mr. DAVIS, for a good bill, well done, and a concept that enhances the liberty and freedom of the American citizens.

I yield back for your comments.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I thank you, Judge CARTER. The real question when it comes down to Presidential support of this, Presidents regardless of party don't tend to want to relinquish party, but I think from a constitutional prerogative there is so much importance in changing the dialogue, the dialogue between the House and Senate on Capitol Hill, but also the dialogue between the executive branch and the legislative branch.

To this point, the thing that I would share, President Obama during his campaign called for a post-partisan area, and that as soon as his legislative agenda did not pass, he moved to want to implement everything by regulation that could not get through the House and the Senate.

The reality is, to get to the post-partisan era and to restore balance between Congress and the executive branch is to pass a bill like this. A senior EPA executive, who has to remain nameless because of who this person shared with me, he thought a concept like REINS was a great idea for two reasons, not from a partisan perspective—and this is somebody in an agency that's regulated.

And the first thing that he shared with me was his unutterable frustration that the Congress often sends overly generic or nonspecific or, in fact, many times contradictory titles in bills, health care being a specific example of that, where it is so difficult for the regulators to try to determine what the intent of Congress was. Oftentimes in order to get that interpretation, they come out with something entirely against the intent of what people wanted who were supporting the bill.

□ 1940

The other thing that happens in that same vein is legislation is often crafted to get a majority of votes in each Chamber and to get a conference acceptance between the House and Senate with language that creates holes, that creates opportunity for the executive branch to legislate or tax by regulation versus working through the reg-

ular order of the House and the Senate. To me, that's not constitutional.

I am not an attorney, but the one thing I can say is the Constitution reads pretty clearly on who is supposed to legislate. And I believe that, frankly, Congress has abdicated, in the past, its responsibility to maintain that control because it was easier, usually in a crisis. This really began in earnest during the Depression. Growth in the regulations related to national security began during the Cold War. We have seen the Great Society programs where many other agencies began to grow, and it affects us in a huge number of ways.

The second reason that the gentleman was supportive of a concept like the REINS Act was this: that it would force a dialogue for clarity between the agency that would have to implement regulations under rules that were being written in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, it would force that dialogue to make sure that the intent of Congress is clear. Instead of having 2,700-page bills that show up hours before a vote, the dialogue could be ongoing, reduced down to a concise piece of legislation that had very clear intent, very clear expectations and metrics, and a clear outcome to maintain context for our citizens.

I would like to touch on a couple of these that affect all citizens. The first one, people like to have their privacy protected. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act in the late 1990s that was enacted into law was intended to protect patient privacy. It was intended to make sure that people's most intimate information would not be freely available outside of very legitimate and necessary venues or where that person gave permission. That law, known euphemistically as HIPAA by its acronym, has accomplished vastly more than the original intent of the law, and mostly damage.

I can give you an example. I was doing what is called a mini internship at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in northern Kentucky the week that HIPAA implemented. And I watched in the space of that time—the internship was an opportunity for people in the business community to come in and learn more about how the health care infrastructure works, business practices that are being implemented. It fosters a dialogue between health care professionals. HIPAA ended that because of liability concerns. Just simple interaction that had taken place before.

More importantly than that, every doctor's office that I had visited, every department of the hospital suddenly saw their paperwork overnight double in dealing with the same patients with the same procedures. So the cost of actually getting the treatment prepared was, in effect, doubled.

We are seeing nurses no longer do nursing, and it's now the patient care

assistants. We are seeing doctors no longer doing medicine—it's charge nurses and senior nurses on units—because, again, the amount of documentation that is required in order to cover the bases on this rule have had an impact far out of proportion to the original intent of simple privacy protection that could have been accomplished in other ways had Congress been more clear.

On transportation, there is always interest in discussion. As you well know, coming from Texas, Texas is different from Kentucky, is different from New York, and everybody is different from California as trendsetters. We all have uniquenesses in this Nation. It's what makes America great. In my part of Boone County, Kentucky, where I live, we experienced a tremendous amount of growth: from one tiny subdivision to nine subdivisions; a new elementary school; commerce that was going up and down Highway 237, known as North Bend Road, a little two-lane road that would snake and curve up to the most northern part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Well, originally in our 6-year road plan, it was supposed to be a four-lane highway that was going to be built to support all of this new traffic. However, some of the new transportation rules got in place about green space and bike paths, and this is what we got at the end of the day. After tens of millions of dollars, 2½ years of construction work, what we got was a beautiful two-lane highway with bike paths and green space in between where a public safety vehicle can't be turned around, and two traffic circles. Now the traffic is just as bad as it was before all of these millions and millions of dollars were spent in order to comply with Federal regulations.

To me, things like that don't even need to be levied at the Federal level. That can be decided at the State or a community level if we want to do things like bike paths, if we want to do things like traffic circles, if you want to place green space in the middle of that road to use Federal transportation dollars that are appropriated to the State.

Another example that comes to mind, a place that I dropped off some suits and shirts this morning—or, actually, my wife did after I came to Washington, D.C. early this morning. Nick Bell is an entrepreneur in Boone County, Kentucky. Years ago, he started a dry cleaners, known as Braxton's Dry Cleaners, with some friends. They have top-notch customer service. They go out of their way to grow their business.

In the late 1990s, Nick had a vision to expand. His service was so effective and the quality of care he gave his customers was so good that he grew to a point where he had more business than his current physical plant could handle in this small dry cleaner. So he did what any enterprising entrepreneur would do: He pooled his savings, the

company revenues, and decided to install an additional dry cleaning machine.

He suddenly found out—this was his first real encounter with the regulatory state from the time that he had started his business—that the clean water rules had changed after 1996, and he was under a whole new set of mandates. Nick was informed that he was going to have to do about 18 boreholes into the concrete pad of his little dry cleaner to test for potential carcinogens. Dry cleaning fluid was listed a potential carcinogen. A potential, I might add. In fact, one oncologist told me that you would basically have to drink gallons of the stuff on a daily basis in order to induce the pH level or the toxicity level in your body to cause cancer to grow. But nonetheless, the rule was the rule. The environmental inspector came out to his facility. He did the 18 boreholes and paid the additional money for that, and then an interesting thing happened.

On one of those boreholes, they discovered one teaspoon of groundwater underneath the concrete pad of this business, which created numerous jobs for our county. In that teaspoon of water was several parts per million of dry cleaning fluid that had apparently been spilled on the floor and had leaked through a small fissure. To you and me, we wouldn't think twice about that if we spilled some windshield wiper fluid or something on our driveway. We would clean it up and we would move on. Or maybe some paint falls off of a windowsill that we're painting on the outside of our house. Nick was informed immediately that he was going to have to remediate that teaspoon of water. He said, Well, sir, I can't afford that. I just won't install the dry cleaning machine. Then the full encounter with the regulatory state came into being. He was told, No, if you don't remediate it to the standard, we are going to shut down your business.

There was no environmental risk. There was no true remediation risk. I am speaking as an engineer. There was just no risk. What was at risk were the jobs of the people there, the clothing of the folks that were trapped in there. And what Mr. Bell had to pay was \$60,000 in remediation fees for one teaspoon of water. It might have been different if Dow Chemical had a major spill, but this is a dry cleaner in Boone County, Kentucky. It had a great impact. It made him an activist, among other things. These examples are rife.

I live in the longest river district in the United States, along the Ohio River. We have a lot of flooding today that is going on. People can't pick up the trash that comes up on their properties, on the riverbanks. You know why? Very simple. Under the rules that are laid forth in implementing the legislation under the Clean Water Act and under the Corps of Engineers, if you reach down and take hold of any of that detritus that washes up on your

land, you own that for liability purposes and are responsible for all the remediation costs of whatever that might be. Hence, as you go in businesses up and down our inland waterways, you will find all of this garbage, all of this waste that has washed up because, by our own laws, the people who want to clean it up free of charge to the Federal Government with no overhead to the State or local communities—think of the Boy Scouts who want to go out on a weekend—they're stopped from doing this and will not do it.

And finally, the last point that I would make on this: We talk about the issues of clean water. I care about clean water. I want to see our water clean, our water pure, but we need to take a look at what standards are again in context.

An enterprising new county judge executive in Lewis County, Kentucky, Thomas Massie, a brilliant MIT graduate who has patented many technology devices, came back home to settle down, to bring these practices back home, and he is an expert in sustainable energy. We are from a coal State, and he wants to do something that is tremendously innovative. He wants to build in this county that doesn't have inherent natural resources but is along a long section of the river, to wall up some of the large draws, with the large hills that come down to the river's edge, and to create, in effect, a hydroelectric generating capability with two large reservoirs.

□ 1950

The proposition was simple: to fill them with water from the Ohio River, and then they could naturally be drained or refilled based on need, based on precipitation and evaporation. But it would be largely sustaining and could generate enough electricity for several counties around the area.

Guess what the new judge ran into? The Environmental Protection Agency, because the clean water standard says that if I take one gallon of water out of the Ohio River, I cannot put a gallon of Ohio River water back into the Ohio River unless it is purer than drinking water.

This is an issue that's completely out of context. And this is part of the challenge I think that we face, that many citizens don't realize as we encounter this regulatory culture, that these are the rules that hit the pocketbooks of people.

It's not simply an issue of big business. It's working families, the elderly, the working poor, our farmers, our small businesses who create jobs are all effected by the \$2 trillion in regulations. And ultimately, if we are going to compete in a global environment, it's not that we want to stop regulation, but we need to bring it into context and make it concise, make sure there is real impact and something that, at the end of the day, doesn't prevent us from creating jobs and doesn't

prevent us from competing and keeping our country strong in the 21st century.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, you're exactly right. So that people understand, many of these regulations, as they look at things, they don't look at the big picture of what that regulation was meant to do. In fact, I don't think they consider just how far reaching what they're doing is going to be. I would venture to guess that when they wrote that regulation concerning that particular chemical that had leached down through a crack and gotten parts per billion or whatever it was into the dirt, that they probably envisioned some big factory dumping major chemical deposits out on the ground. They never thought of a mom-and-pop cleaners that might have a slight crack in the foundation which causes a very minute amount to fall down there and then say, You've got to remediate like a monster company who dumps all this trash in there should have to remediate. I think that the people that were writing that were thinking about the big guy, never realizing what they were doing on the little guy.

Last night, I guess it was, I had a really nice invitation from some people. There's an event in Austin. I'm going to plug for them because it's a great event. It's called South by Southwest. And many people think of it as a music festival. There's lots of bands that come in. They have lots of live music. Austin is the live music capital of the world.

But there's also a lot of entrepreneurs. High-tech innovators and all sorts of people come there to share ideas, to go to seminars about how we're going to thrive in the 21st century. It's a great, I believe, week-long celebration. It may be longer than that.

Last night, I was invited to a private meeting between—I'd say there's at least 100 to 150 people with ideas, and what they call angel investors; that is, people who are willing to look at these ideas and maybe be willing to loan startup money to get these companies started.

The first thing I want to tell you: I don't believe I've ever walked into a room where there were more enthusiastic people who thought they had a great idea. I mean, it just felt good talking to these young people. Many of them, you wouldn't be able to pick them out on the college campus from all the rest of the kids on the college campus. They look just like all the kids on the college campus, and many of them were. But they had an idea, had come up with an idea. These were the Michael Dells and the Bill Gates of the future that had an idea, and they were gathering with other people with ideas.

Of course, when we think of this, when we mention Michael Dell and Bill Gates and the people in the high-tech industry, we think everything is high tech and Internet; but, in fact, some of the ideas were just pretty simple. But somebody had a good idea.

And one of them I thought was kind of innovative was a rolling kitchen. These were gourmet chefs who said, you know, I want to cook. I've got good food, but I don't want to have to buy a facility. I want to just have a Winnebago with a full kitchen in it and a way to sell my food outside the door, and I'm going to sell gourmet food on the street like a street vendor. It's an interesting concept, and it seems to be, as it was described to me, the beginning of a very successful idea.

Now, these ideas were there, and there were people who come and invest in those things. I met one guy who said, Yeah, you know, sometimes you pick a winner and sometimes you don't, but I've picked a couple of winners. One of them was Netflix. I got in the first day on Netflix. Now we're doing pretty good.

But what this was, this was the seed corn, if you will, of capitalism in America. This is what it's all about. But most of the people that had projects there had something to do with a tool that we all are learning about, and that is the Internet.

Now, we have rules coming down from the Federal Government. The FCC is putting out rules to grant the Federal Government new power to regulate the Internet, restrict access and, thus, stalling this type of innovation of these dynamic young men and women that I met last night with their great concepts on how to improve life and create a business.

Our Founding Fathers were very smart. They realized if you give us liberty, from that will come new ideas; from those new ideas will come entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs; from that will come jobs, capital to reinvest and grow a thriving economy. We have been living on that basic system of private enterprise in this country now since the inception of this country, and these young technocrats have learned how to use the Internet as a tool to make life better for people. Yet if you ask them what they don't want, they don't want the Federal Government regulating them.

Now, the people that are wanting to regulate, they're looking at maybe some things they see as problems. I don't know what problems they are. Maybe they think somebody is using it to enhance politics other than theirs and they're worried about the other guy having access for political reasons. Maybe they're worried about some of the bad things that are on the Internet. And there are bad things. Our terrorists are learning how to make weapons to kill other people on the Internet. But they are not realizing that, as they take something that's working and stick the Federal Government in there, it probably isn't going to be working as good. The Federal Government doesn't do a whole lot to make things work well.

So the unintended consequences of that is they would basically destroy this exciting, innovative industry

that's being created in this country to come up with new ideas that, hopefully, make life better and more convenient for all of us and, in turn, hopefully, generate wealth for those who have the ideas, because that's what we are all about.

Right now, using this tool, until we can get Mr. DAVIS' REINS Act—which I'm a cosponsor and almost everybody I know is. We're going to try to get this thing passed this session of Congress, signed into law by the President of the United States, as a tool that all Members of Congress should respect. Until that time, we use the Congressional Review Act. And here's some things we are looking at in the Congressional Review Act.

□ 2000

The EPA rule disapproving the State of Texas' flexible permitting system under the Clean Air Act. We filed H.J. Res. 21, JOHN CARTER sponsors that. FCC Net Neutrality Rule, H.J. Res. 37, GREG WALDEN is using the Congressional Review Act to look into that. HHS rule on medical loss ratio, MLR, requirements under the Patent Protection and Affordable Care Act, H.J. Res. 19, I am going after that rule with the Congressional Review Act. NESHAP Rule for Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry, H.J. Res. 42. Again, Representative CARTER. This rule is likely to close 18 cement kilns around the country and destroy good American jobs, driving them overseas to places like China and India, possibly increasing the mercury pollution in the United States from offshore pollution.

These are just examples of some things we have been working on. We have talked about them before. And I can assure you, my office right now is daily checking every service we can find to find out about every regulation that is being proposed so that we can look at the ones that we can be aggressive and take the offense on for the Congressional Review Act.

Once again, the REINS Act would shift the burden, as we say in the law, and it would mean that we would have to vote on any major regulation as by the definition that Mr. DAVIS has given us. So both these tools would be available to Members of Congress for us to be able to look at these administrative rules that are being passed, which are basically done by individuals and agencies, not by this Congress, and give this Congress, which represents the people, to be responsible for whether or not the rule passes. Therefore, if the folks back home want somebody to blame, that is what you take this job for. The buck stops with your vote. If you support the rule, you are going to be responsible for it. And if the folks back home don't like it, you are going to own it. But that is what we came up here for. We came up here to be responsible for our constituents, to be their voice in Washington.

Maybe my friend, Mr. DAVIS, would like to comment again. So once again I yield to you.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman. And just your point on being responsible. One thing that I would share along these lines is that one of the jobs that all Members of Congress have is to explain to their constituents what is happening in Washington and also to explain to Washington what their constituents think. And when we come down to these issues with the rules, I think of one thing so critical for us to understand is, and I have seen it in my early time here. I saw it certainly during the health care debate when people would walk out and they would do press conferences and do press releases talking about all the great things that were happening. We read the bill in our office, I didn't see any of that happening, but it took 3 months and then 6 months and 12 months, and people were waking up to all these things that weren't there, and it created a great backlash. And much of that was expressed in frustration at the election because of ultimately this growth and intrusion of policy that the American people didn't want.

By having this check and balance, it does several things. It restores transparency so people can see. It forces Members of Congress to communicate with their district. If we think a regulation is something that is important to have enacted or a law that will empower a regulation that is going to have significant reach, we need to have that discussion with our constituents so they understand, as well as a discussion with the agency community long before that legislation ever goes to the floor of the House.

By bringing about this REINS process, it would take these major rules at the end of 60 days back up here for an up-or-down vote. Really, if the House and Senate are doing their job and the agency community and the executive branch is doing its job, that should be a relatively straightforward exercise. But if there is an attempt by the executive to step outside the will of the people, then we get into this. And it is important.

I go back to the question of the Congressional Review Act. In corollary, not directly tied to this by regulation, but oftentimes in the agencies there is an attempt that takes place to fall into a routine of operation. And in times of crisis, those are not always the most effective thing.

Many of us remember back in the early days of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Regardless of one's politics, positions on the policy, we suddenly found ourselves in a new kind of counterinsurgency that had not been expected by the military, had not had the expectation set by the administration that this was going to unfold, and in fact they were caught by surprise. Because of the promulgation of thousands of improvised explosive devices by the fall of 2003, the Army and Marine Corps specifically realized we were in a full-blown counterinsurgency and had to

react. The first words out of the civilian bureaucracy and the Defense Department were that it would take several years in order to accomplish what was necessary because laws would have to be enacted and following test doctrines for various programs.

I think of some of the things I have seen in military programs that began 15, 20, 25 years ago and simply die because, by the time something gets to a flyable prototype or an executable weapons system, it ends up making itself obsolete because there is not that agility to respond because of the internal regulations, not even germane to what we are talking about tonight, but these rules that govern the mindset of how the government operates.

Well, telling division commanders and brigade commanders and regimental and battalion and company commanders, well, it will be a couple years down the road, and we will have a solution to your immediate combat problem, is not the way Americans think and operate.

In World War II, we fielded all kinds of technology. What worked was made in mass, and it showed the agility of our industrial complex. And we were looking for everything, long before this large military-industrial bureaucracy came into being.

What it took for Congress to get the up-armored vehicle program into theater, and it was an amazing thing after enactment; you were here to see that, 39,000 armored vehicles that would not have gone into theater specifically in Iraq were there in 16 months, but it took an act of Congress to do that, to exert on the executive branch the will of the American people. This was even a case when the President agreed and wanted this, but even he couldn't overcome the inertia of his own agency community. Something not uncommon for Presidents, regardless of party.

Coming back into our world here with the regulations that affect us economically in day-to-day time. Restoring accountability, restoring the dialogue, restoring the constitutional primacy of the legislature allows us to do our job to protect the American people, to make sure that their interests are seen, and give them somebody to hold accountable at the end of the day. You can't fire the EPA administrator or the director of the FCC or the Secretary of Education or any of a number of other agency heads if they implement regulations that are not what our communities, what our country, what our citizens want. And, frankly, it brings an end to this paternalistic government that is run by experts that don't necessarily reflect what the will of the American people is.

Your colleague from Texas gave a remarkable speech a couple of years ago on the issue of CFC light bulbs. I find it so amazing in the mandate that was put down to have CFC light bulbs. In 2007, I remember when one was dropped in the Longworth Office Building and the building was evacuated over the

issue of this. Mr. POE from Texas read this draconian list of regulatory requirements in dealing with a dropped light bulb.

The thing that struck me is it is so expensive to comply with the regulations on the production side that none of them are made nor will ever be made in the United States of America. They are made in China. And I think that is one example that shows this complete dissonance.

We can restore American economic competitiveness. We can strengthen our regulatory framework for real, sound regulations that protect consumers, that protect the American people, that protect the integrity of our commerce, but do it in such a way so it is in context and not putting layer over layer over layer that just increases complexity, increases the size and reach of government, and ultimately the cost to our pocketbook.

Mr. CARTER. Those are excellent comments. And those light bulbs are a particular sticking point in my life. I don't like being mandated to purchase anything, quite honestly, by the government. And it is really kind of hypocritical to say everybody has got to use these lights, but we can't make them in the country because the regulators won't let us. And we create the regulators. So it is just hypocritical.

I guess what we are trying to say to folks out there and to the people in this Chamber is that it is time to take a look at this secret world of regulators. And it really is a secret to the American people.

I don't think I would make a bad estimate if regulations were printed on both sides of paper like that size paper; and this Chamber has, what, 80 foot ceilings, 100 foot ceilings, and it is probably 40 yards long and 20 yards wide? Stacking these regulations on pages like this, you would have to have at least two or three of them, probably just to cover the IRS Code, much less all the other regulations.

The voluminous number of regulations that are out there will literally boggle your mind. If there is a good reason to have the Internet, it is to have somebody help you keep track of the regulations probably better than anything I can think of.

□ 2010

They're there. They interfere with our lives. Some of them help and some of them don't. And the people's representatives should have a say.

The Congressional Review Act is presently giving us a chance to have a say, and we hope to bring many of these, actually all of these, to the floor of this House for a vote and to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

With the REINS Act passed and signed into law, it gives us another way to get the people of this House who represent the people of this country to cast a vote on behalf of their citizens back home as to whether a major regulation will or will not help this Nation.

As we sit here trying to take down barriers to creating jobs, if there's one thing more than anything else that we've got to do for now and for the foreseeable future in this Congress, it is help take down barriers and get the entrepreneurial spirit going again and get the environment such that people quit sitting on their money and go out and hire new people to help them make bigger profits and grow their companies by hiring people and giving them a job. That's our number one priority. It must be. These regulations, some of them are good, but many of them are onerous and prevent these jobs that we're talking about.

I thank the Speaker for his time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS COMMEMORATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add material to the subject that we are discussing this evening.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this evening we in the Congressional Black Caucus are coming to the floor to honor the women in our communities that have been its backbone and who have employed their foresight, their hard work, and their sacrifice to move us forward, serving as the inspiration for all of us in our individual and collective journeys.

March, as you know, is Women's History Month, celebrated this year with the theme, "Our History is Our Strength." We all know the stories in our families and in our communities of mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and sisters who pulled together to make sure that everyone within their power was fed, educated and remained healthy. Those with a lot of resources shared what they had. Those with not much gave of their time and their heart to bring generations into existence, to nurture all of the community's children despite all of the odds before them.

As we highlight the achievements of women, we will also speak to our concerns that the gains women have made and the progress we still need to make are being threatened by the actions and the agenda of the 112th Congress under a Republican majority.

Before I yield to my colleague from Texas, I would just like to read some quotes from the Secretary of State and the President of the United States.

First the Secretary, quoting from her remarks on Women's History Month:

"This year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. International Women's Day is a chance to pay tribute to ordinary women throughout the world and is rooted in women's century-old struggle to participate in society on an equal footing with men. This day reminds us that while enormous progress has been made, there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity."

And from President Barack Obama: "We have to work even harder," he says, "to close the gap that still exists and to uphold that simple American ideal: we are all equal and deserving of the chance to pursue our own version of happiness. That's what Eleanor Roosevelt was striving toward half a century ago. That's why the report on women that was issued this month matters today. And that's why on behalf of all of our daughters and our sons, we've got to keep making progress in the years ahead."

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentlelady from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I would like to thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands for allowing us—and being the lead on Monday after Monday—opportunities to be able to engage our constituents and speak on a number of very important issues. I thank you for your leadership. I have certainly been privileged to be part of this very important opportunity to speak on a number of challenging issues.

Many of us have just arrived back into Washington. We have spent precious days with our constituents, and it is amazing the number of issues that we are encountering: individuals who are impacted by the broken and unfixed immigration laws; individuals who are in need of small business assistance or health care. These are the real issues of Americans. Or those who are gathering to join their allies and friends in Wisconsin as they are concerned and almost intimidated somewhat about the misdirected approach to budget cutting by cutting out rights of workers, many of whom are women.

So I think speaking about women is crucial as we commemorate Women's History Month, because we know from the early founding of this great country, women were standing side by side with the Founders. Those of us who come from a slave history, we know the history of slave women who were the backbone of keeping families together. That if a slave woman was sold, she could turn to another slave woman and say, Would you take care of my children? I can't take them with me. Or if, tragically, she lost her life in the violence of slavery, the families of other slaves rallied around those children.

I would think the same of Native Americans, Indian women, who were

the backbone of their families, and pioneering women and women who came from places around the world, Irish women, women who came from Great Britain or Poland or from South and Central America or from the Caribbean. These are women who have come to the United States and were part of the founding.

I speak of my grandmother, Olive Jackson, who came from Jamaica, West Indies, and with her husband, Albert Jackson, went to Panama and helped build in the teeming woods and forests of that era, fighting against malaria and mosquitoes and diseases and were part of building the Panama Canal. How my grandmother kept the family together and gave birth to her first son and survived to be able to make it here to the United States and had children born in South Carolina and made their way up, and then finally got to Brooklyn, New York. A part of the history of this country. She kept the family together.

Let me just call a roll, if you don't mind, of some of the women from Texas. Please note that there are many others.

Women like Mrs. Johnson, the wife of Lyndon Baines Johnson, who was so much involved in the beautification of Texas. Her daughter, Luci Baines Johnson. Her other daughter, Lynda Robb Johnson. The Honorable Barbara Jordan, who made a point in the 1974 Watergate hearings that she would not see the Constitution declined or diminished, and that she believed that even though it did not include her when we started, that this Constitution means We the People. That's what Women's History Month means.

Ann Richards, the former Governor, the late Governor of Texas. Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Beulah Shepard, the mayor of Acres Home. Ruby Mosley, who has been such a leader and a pioneer in changes in Acres Home. Jewel Houston, a great educator. Willie Belle Boone, a great political activist. Christia Adair, another great political activist. Esther Williams, a great early political activist and precinct judge. Irma of Irma's fabulous Mexican restaurant, a businesswoman who, with her children by her side, opened one of the famous restaurants in Houston. Representative Carol Alvarado. Representative Anna Hernandez. Commissioner Sylvia Garcia. Council Member Wanda Adams. Council Member Jolanda Jones. Doris Hubbard. The late Dorothy Hubbard. Mayor Annise Parker.

Small businesswomen. The late Nancy Berkman, who was so pivotal in working on the Mickey Leland Kibbutzim program. Joyce Schechter, a premier advocate and supporter of Democratic policies. Parvin McVey, an outstanding humanitarian. The women and doctors at the March of Dimes that I work with, the sacrifice that they make. Former Councilwoman Robinson, the wife of the late Judson Robinson, the first council member to be

elected, and once he passed, Council Member Robinson, his wife took his place. Jewel McGowan, another great educator.

Teachers, nurses. Dr. Betty Lewis, a great nurse. Dr. Wanda Mott, a great doctor. Dr. Natalie Carroll, former president of the National Medical Association. And certainly Ling Lui, a Chinese American. Dr. Ahmed, an American from Bangladesh who's at Texas Southern University.

My mother, Ivalita Jackson. My aunts: Aunt Valerie, Aunt Audrey, Aunt Vickie, Aunt Sybil.

□ 2020

The reason why I just called their names is because they, along with the women of courage that we honored just a week or so ago with Secretary Hillary Clinton and Mrs. Obama—Michelle Obama, which I include in the greatness of how far women have come—they really make a statement, Congresswoman, that what we're doing in the budget and what we're doing in the CR really does not take into account all the sweat and toil of hardworking women.

Can you tell me how we would ignore a health care reform that women no longer have to be subjected to pre-existing condition as a means of getting insurance and therefore pregnancy now does not stifle a woman who is working on a job from getting insurance and bans insurance companies, again, from dropping the women when they get sick or become pregnant. For women in new plans, it provides pre-coverage of important lifesaving preventative services. Women who are sometimes a single head of household, older women who have chronic conditions, they can now be covered because of preventative care; bans insurance companies from reauthorization or referral for access to OB/GYN care.

What an antiquated system that required women not to be able to go to a doctor for OB/GYN care. We have gotten rid of that; and the common practice of gender rating, meaning charging women substantially higher premiums. Yet this Affordable Health Care is on the chopping blocks. I can't understand it. Ensures children up to age 19 cannot be denied coverage for preexisting disease. Sometimes babies are born with asthma or sickle cell or juvenile diabetes. Those people cannot get insurance. Women would have to take off or quit or get on welfare just to be able to find some such basis of coverage or insurance.

Greater access to insurance by women. And yet as we commemorate Women's History Month, we have a situation where our friends on the other side of the aisle are slashing and burning. In fact, they have already voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. What does it say to the history of women in this country?

Let me quickly move to some additional harms to women, Republican-proposed cuts that will harm women

and their families. Title X family planning. This program has provided family planning services, breast and cervical cancer screening and other preventative health care to low-income women. It has provided health centers that serve more than 5 million women.

Can you imagine that healthy women, who make a difference in this country—that is less hours of sick women, less children away from the home, less women able to bear children and then go out into the workplace, because they have suffered the lack of access to health care. Well, my friends, if you can imagine, this is where we are today.

We had \$300 million in a vote just by a Congressperson from Indiana, who won the vote 240-185 to prevent any Federal funding to Planned Parenthood. By the way, Planned Parenthood reads. They understand. Their moneys are used for family planning. It is used to detect cervical cancer and breast cancer. It's used to provide preventative service to millions of women in health care dealing with HIV testing, breast exams, and, of course, contraception. But none of these dollars will be used for what I suppose this amendment was supposed to inhibit—and that's abortion. They read. They get it. They have been following the law for years.

In Women's History Month, what are we saying to our women? It cuts nutrition programs for pregnant women and children \$747 million, special supplemental nutrition program, the WIC program. Can you believe it? Suggesting that it's a waste of money, when most educators will tell you children that are not nourished in the early stages, they have a default in their ability to think and to be able to do well in school. Cut Head Start and child care. People approach me in my district, on the streets here in Washington, D.C. Cutting \$1.1 from Head Start, \$39 million from child care.

I want you to know that I'm dealing with a case, Congresswoman, in my district where Federal dollars were supporting a home child care. As you well know, those requirements are less than Head Start. And now do you know what we have? Four dead babies in this child care home care center where a fire consumed them. Unfortunately, because the caretaker made a mistake. This is what I'm dealing with.

And so my question is: you're cutting Head Start, you're cutting child care. People are standing in line to get child care. People are being turned away. They don't know what to do. Young mothers who are trying to do right, are trying to get a job, and they realize this is a problem. It cuts job training. I've had young mothers in job training programs, \$4 billion. Are they telling me it doesn't work?

These job training programs are particularly important to women workers, many of them coming out of the home after they've had children and they can place them in a school setting or Head

Start. They can now get back to work. They can be contributing to the tax base and to the society and be able to teach their children about the work ethic because they're young and they want to do so.

Cutting that; cutting Pell Grants. When I went out to Lone Star College, what did I see? Young women, some of them young mothers, getting the opportunity of a second life. It halts funding for the implementation of the health care law. I've already spoken about that. Maternal and child health. And then Social Security for women who are seniors. I just don't understand what we are trying to do.

So I would just argue the point in this Women's History Month that there is a breakdown. There's a mental block. Don't let me start talking about the minority women-owned businesses where they're cutting MBDA \$1.9 million; and denying minority workers skills training for the 21st century workforce, cutting \$3 billion dollars, and leaving our American heroes out in cold, women who have been veterans, cutting them \$75 million, who may be homeless. I have met women homeless veterans. I see them every day. And it has only been recently that we've acknowledged that these women have PTSD and other problems. I've met them. They have begged for the programs to continue because they served their country as well.

And then, lo and behold, we've just shut the doors on community health clinics, something that the Congressional Black Caucus worked so hard on, \$1.3 billion, cutting 3.2 million patients where they can come out of their homes and go to a doctor and not wind up in the emergency room that pushes up the tax base or the tax cost by the public hospital system and the private hospital system. And yet we continue cutting these programs.

So I'm reminded of Barbara Jordan's words about not being worried about being called a politician. She just said, I want to be called a darned good politician. That's what we should be looking at here in this place as we honor women and Women's History Month, that we can all be good elected officials, good politicians that make a difference. We make a difference on behalf of all of the American people. No party affiliation. That we don't cut and jab into collective bargaining in States around this country when in fact collective bargaining is simply giving someone the opportunity to sit down at the bargaining table; nurses, many of them women; teachers, many of them women, clerical workers; many of them women; municipal workers; women who have come out of the household to support their family and may be the only bread winner.

So let me thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to be able to salute women of all persuasions all over this country. Let me personally thank you for the nurturing that you have given the soldiers and sons that

you have sent off to battles throughout the ages; to the Gold Star Mothers, to the Blue Star Mothers that I work with in my district. Thank you for the sacrifices that you have made. Thank you for nurturing those who are still mending and healing those who have been wounded in war, whether it's the war of the ages or the wars that we've just encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And let me thank the mothers and the women of the Mid East, from Egypt to Tunisia to Bahrain to Yemen to Libya—and most of all to Libya. Let me thank the women who have gone into battle. Let me thank the women who have already lost children because they wanted freedom in battle.

Let me thank the peace lovers. And all I would say, as we commemorate Women's History Month, the names that I have just called, they represent the strength and our history. And it is on their shoulders that I stand. It is on their shoulders that I pledge that I will never give up; as JOHN LEWIS said, never give out; and never give in, because women today are truly having as the wind beneath their wings all the women who have gone before, all the older women that stand alongside of them.

□ 2030

Finally, Congresswoman, to the young women, let me say that the road is never as smooth as one would like. It is rocky, with mountains and valleys; but take the opportunity to learn and to build so that you can have wings as well.

Women's History Month, I salute you and the women. I believe in your strength, and I believe in your spirit and your history.

BACKGROUND ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Every March, the country recognizes National Women's History Month. This national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980 when National Women's History Week was proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by Congressional Resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

In the last several years, we have had a number of historic firsts to celebrate in conjunction with Women's History Month—the first woman Speaker of the House, the first female President of Harvard—to name a couple. These historic events speak to the progress we have made in women participating in public service and the political process.

Further, there are now a record number of women serving in Congress. The 112th Congress includes 93 women Members serving in the House and Senate.

The Democratic-led 111th Congress focused on a number of key concerns of America's women, including quality affordable health care, investments to create jobs and stimulate growth, investments in early childhood education, ensuring that our military families are receiving the resources and services that they need, and ensuring equal pay for all of America's working women.

Unfortunately, in the 112th Congress, the GOP-led House has moved in the opposite direction—failing to pass measures to create

jobs and promote economic growth. Not only have Republicans failed to create jobs, they have passed a Spending Bill that is projected to destroy up to 700,000 jobs and reduce economic growth by up to 2 percentage points, as well as cut services particularly vital for America's women.

HOW HEALTHCARE REFORM BENEFITS WOMEN

Ensures being a woman will no longer be treated as a "pre-existing condition," with insurance companies banned from denying coverage for "pre-existing conditions," beginning in 2014. Currently, many women are denied coverage or charged more for such "pre-existing conditions" as breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, having had a C-section, or having been a victim of domestic violence.

Bans insurance companies from dropping women when they get sick or become pregnant, as of 2010.

For women in new plans, provides free coverage of important, life-saving preventive services, such as mammograms and colonoscopies, as of 2010.

Improves the care of millions of older women with chronic conditions, by providing incentives under Medicare for more coordinated care.

Bans insurance companies from requiring women to obtain a pre-authorization or referral for access to ob-gyn care, as of 2010.

Ends the common practice of "gender rating," charging women substantially higher premiums than men for the same coverage, beginning in 2014. According to a recent study, the women on the individual market pay up to 48% more in premium costs than men.

Ensures that children up to the age of 19 cannot be denied coverage due to a "pre-existing condition," as of 2010.

Provides greater access to affordable health coverage for women, with the establishment of new Health Insurance Exchanges for the millions who do not have health insurance through an employer, beginning in 2014. Currently, less than half of America's women can obtain affordable insurance through their employer.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSED CUTS THAT WILL HARM WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Eliminates Funding for the Title X Family Planning—Entirely eliminates funding for the Title X Family Planning Program, which received \$317 million in FY 2010. For more than 40 years, the Title X Family Planning Program has provided family planning services, breast and cervical cancer screening, and other preventive health care to low-income women in need. Title X-funded health centers serve more than 5 million individuals each year, at 4,500 community-based clinics. Six in 10 women who obtain health care from a Title X-funded family planning center consider it to be their primary source of health care. Grantees include state and local health departments, hospitals, community health centers, and private non-profit organizations.

Eliminates all federal funding for Planned Parenthood—In addition to eliminating all funding for the Title X Family Planning Program in the underlying bill, House Republicans also adopted an amendment by Representative MIKE PENCE (R-IN), by a vote of 240–185, to specifically prohibit any federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The Pence amendment would have a devastating effect on women's access to health care across the country. Planned Parenthood health centers currently

provide preventive services to millions of women in need of health care, including the provision of contraception, cancer screenings, breast exams, and HIV testing. In fact, over 90 percent of health care offered by Planned Parenthood is preventive. Many low-income individuals depend on Planned Parenthood health centers for the majority, if not all, of their health care.

Cuts Nutrition Programs for Pregnant Women and Their Children—Cuts \$747 million from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as the WIC program. The WIC program provides nutritious food, counseling, and other supports to 9.6 million low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and infants each month. This program makes a real difference; studies have linked WIC participation with higher birth weight and lower infant mortality.

Cuts Head Start and Child Care—Cuts \$1.1 billion from the Head Start program and \$39 million from child care, causing hundreds of thousands of children to lose early learning support. Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Child Care Development Block Grant are our key federal early learning investments. These initiatives: (1) allow low-income children to start school ready to succeed, and (2) support and enable parents to work. Funding is already insufficient and these cuts will result in even fewer children benefiting from early learning programs.

Cuts Job Training—Cuts more than \$4 billion for job training programs that are critical in preparing workers for employment in growth industries. For example, funding under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is zeroed out—eliminating a \$1.4 billion program serving 1.7 million youth and adult workers. These job training programs are particularly important for women workers, many of whom are concentrated in low-wage and low-skill jobs without opportunity for advancement.

Cuts Initiatives That Help Students Pay for College—Cuts the maximum Pell Grant amount by \$845—from the current level of \$5,550 to \$4,705 for the coming academic year. Pell Grants provide the basic foundation of federal student aid and help millions of low-income American women afford to attend college. The bill also entirely eliminates federal funding (\$757 million in FY 2010) for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, which provide additional grants of up to \$4,000 to the lowest income Pell recipients and reach 1.3 million of the Nation's neediest students. Cuts to these programs will make college less accessible for low-income women.

Halts Funding to Implement the Health Care Law—House Republicans adopted a series of amendments on the House Floor that essentially stop any funding to implement the Affordable Care Act, the landmark health care law enacted last year. The GOP bill, as amended, therefore takes away critical new patient's rights, many of which are critical to America's women. As a result, under the GOP bill, lifetime caps could once again be placed on coverage, young adults up to age 26 would lose the assurance they could stay on their parents' plan, pregnant women could once again be thrown off insurance rolls, and being a woman could once again be considered a pre-existing condition.

Cuts Maternal and Child Health—Cuts \$50 million from the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. Title V-supported pro-

grams provide prenatal health services to 2.5 million women and primary and preventive health care to 31 million children each year. Cuts this deep will severely harm state and local programs serving women, babies, and children.

Eliminates Funding that Helps Schools Comply with Title IX—Eliminates the Women's Educational Equity Program, which promotes education equity for women and girls and helps educational agencies meet their obligations under Title IX, the law that requires gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding.

Cuts Funding for Social Security Offices and Supports for Women Who Are Seniors—Cuts funding for the Social Security Administration by hundreds of millions of dollars. These cuts will force thousands of layoffs and furloughs in offices across the country, which means delays in processing applications for Social Security benefits Americans have earned. The bill also cuts funding for a range of supports for seniors, including senior employment services (cut by \$525 million) and Administration on Aging programs (cut by \$65 million). Women are a majority of Social Security recipients and more than two-thirds of the elderly poor—so they will be disproportionately harmed by these GOP cuts.

Undermines Food Safety—Cuts funding for USDA food safety inspections by \$88 million—making it impossible to conduct daily inspections of meat and poultry plants. This would force many meat and poultry plants to shut down for more than a month in 2011, resulting in estimated economic losses of up to \$11 billion. Furthermore, the bill cuts FDA funding by \$241 million. This would lead to furloughs and/or RIFs of hundreds of FDA staff including those who inspect our domestic and imported foods.

Blocks Public Database on Safety of Consumer Products, Designed as "Early Warning System" for Parents—House Republicans adopted an amendment by Representative MIKE POMPEO (R-KS), by a vote of 234–187, which prohibits any funding for a new public consumer safety information database, opposed by Big Business, which is particularly designed to warn parents about potentially defective products aimed at children.

REPUBLICAN SPENDING BILL IMPACT ON MINORITIES

Inhibiting the Creation of Minority Businesses

Slashing \$1.9 million from the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the sole agency dedicated to fostering growth and innovation among minority-owned firms, creates barriers for minority businesses to employ more than the 6 million Americans they did last year.

In 2010, the MBDA generated \$3.3 billion in contracts and capital for minority-owned firms.

Denying Minority Workers Skills Training for a 21st Century Workforce

Cutting \$3 billion from the Workforce Investment Act eliminates access to essential job training initiatives that have helped millions of minorities gain the skills to compete in our nation's job market.

In 2009, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs helped approximately 8,370,000 people, with minorities making up 43 percent (714,314) of the WIA Adult Program, 38 percent (384,106) of the WIA Dislocated Worker Program and 68 percent (186,809) of the WIA Youth Program.

Ensuring a Second Rate Education for Minority Communities

Taking away \$1 billion from Head Start denies 200,000 children an early childhood education and forces them to begin kindergarten less educated than their classmates. This cut disproportionately harms minority children with Latinos making up 36 percent and African Americans 29 percent of the nearly 1,114,000 children that receive a quality early education from Head Start funding.

By cutting \$580 million from special education programs, Republicans are shifting the federal government's obligation to educate up to 324,000 children with disabilities onto our already burdened states, 45 of which are already running deficits. This cut will hurt special education programs where Latino children make up 19 percent, African American children 15 percent and Asian Americans and Pacific Islander children 4 percent of students.

Eliminating Health Care Services to Minority Communities

Eliminating \$61 million in funding from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grants forces doctors to decide which of the millions of mothers they serve will not receive the prenatal care they need to give birth to healthy babies. In one year, these grants assisted over 4 million mothers, including 1 million Latinas, 723,000 African Americans and 195,000 Asian Americans who gave birth to healthy babies.

Cutting \$1.3 billion from Community Health Centers will deny critical health care to nearly 3.2 million new patients. Currently, Community Health Centers provide quality, affordable health care to 20 million people 36 percent are Latinos, 22 percent are African Americans and 4 percent are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Leaving Our American Heroes Out in the Cold

Revoking \$75 million from veterans' housing programs will leave up to 10,000 homeless veterans without a roof over their head despite patriotically serving in our Armed Forces.

African American and Latinos make up 56 percent of the estimated 156,000 homeless veterans though they only comprise 11 percent and 6 percent of the veterans' population, respectively.

Finally, I can not end, without saluting NANCY PELOSI, the first woman Speaker in the History of the United States. Many little girls will aspire to great heights because of her leadership and strength. Thank you, Speaker PELOSI, for all of your work over the years. Along with Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Coretta Scott King, Maya Angelo, Rosa Parks and Dr. Dorothy Height the women of Presidents, every U.S. President sought her counsel, we are blessed because of their fight and their victory!

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, for your inspiring words, and thank you for being such a faithful participant in these Monday evening Special Orders.

You listed a lot of the very special women in your district, as you said, on whose shoulders we stand. I could also list women from my district who are leaders in the fight for freedom and justice: who are labor leaders, doctors, clergy, writers, nurses, teachers, and those who have just been role models

and who have helped to nurture our territory's children.

I do want to spend some of my time saluting a pioneering educator in my district of the U.S. Virgin Islands, one who would have celebrated her 96th birthday on March 26 had she not left us this past January. Like many Virgin Islands women of her generation, Mrs. Delta Dorsch was a force of nature.

Born in the town of Frederiksted in 1915, 2 years before the Virgin Islands became a part of the American family, Mrs. Dorsch was a renowned educator, storyteller and tradition bearer of the territory. She was tall in stature and stood out as a woman of class, of intelligence and excellence in all that she did. In her lifetime, she witnessed the birth, growth and development of the modern Virgin Islands: from the transfer of ownership from Denmark to the United States, to the quest of its people for greater self-government and self-determination, to its welcoming of many people from many shores, to its present position poised at the dawn of a new century with its modern concerns of quality health care and education for all, environmental and cultural sustainability, energy independence, and a future for its children of a life lived in peace and security, with access to a quality life that provides good, stable employment opportunities.

Mrs. Dorsch, who was educated at New York University, at Columbia University and who studied international education at the University of London in England and at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, served for more than 38 years as a teacher and elementary supervisor in the Virgin Islands school system. From 1977 to 1982, she also served as an instructor of elementary education in both undergraduate programs at the University of the Virgin Islands and as Deputy Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction in the Virgin Islands Department of Education. She was also the chair of the board of directors of the St. Dunstan's Episcopal School in St. Croix.

Her excellent educational resume does not adequately convey the quality of care she gave to Virgin Islands students. She was a mentor and a special friend to many, encouraging them to achieve and to work for excellence. She also worked throughout her lifetime to preserve traditional values and her cultural heritage, taking it upon herself to learn the many folk stories that had been passed down from generation to generation and to share them with the young and with the not so young.

Her message was simple: As you progress and embrace change, don't forget your culture, your way of life, and the everyday things that make you unique and special and identifiable as a people.

In addition to education and culture, she was active in the political life of the community, supporting the campaigns of worthy candidates and giving

sage advice to those who, like myself, sought her counsel.

In her lifetime, Mrs. Delta Dorsch received many accolades and awards. The National Junior Honor Society of the Elena Christian Junior High School is named in her honor as is the residence hall at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix campus. She was among the tradition bearers who participated in the Virgin Islands Folklife Festival in 1990 here in Washington, DC, on The Mall, where she told the Bru Nansi and Jumbie stories that are particular to the U.S. Virgin Islands. She authored a book and an accompanying video on the role of the storyteller and of the preservation of the Virgin Islands culture, and she contributed to our town Frederiksted's current edition of the "Glory Days of Frederiksted."

Mrs. Delta M. Jackson Dorsch made her mark as a woman of substance in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and left a remarkable trail for the rest of us to follow. It is in her spirit of determination and advocacy that I stand here today to speak about the current state of women, not only in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in a time that has shown great progress for women, as I read from our President earlier; but we also find ourselves at a crossroads where there are many areas in which our welfare is threatened. Some of these areas were enumerated by my colleague from Texas.

According to the report prepared for the White House Council on Women and Girls, entitled, "Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being," which was published this month, women have outpaced men in educational attainment, earning more college degrees and graduate education, but they are still more likely than men to live in poverty.

Black and Hispanic females are likely to be poorer than non-Hispanic white females. Black women have a 28 percent rate of poverty, Hispanic 27 percent, white women 11 percent—also too high. While more education increases income for both men and women, the pay gap between the two still exists. More women than men work part time, and of course that means they are less likely to be insured or to have other benefits. At all levels of education, women still earn about 75 percent as much as their male counterparts. The female-headed families have the lowest family earnings among all family types.

Women today face health challenges, with depression, for example, and more women than men report having chronic medical conditions. Yet more of us are uninsured, and many women report not having a usual source of care. Eighteen percent of nonelderly women lack health insurance. Of unmarried women, almost 25 percent are uninsured. Twenty-one percent of African American women and 38 percent of Latinas are uninsured.

So the challenge to improve the lives of all women continues, and we Democrats are proud that in the historic 111th Congress, presided over by the first female Speaker of this House, we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay and work events.

We passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, which updated the 47-year-old Equal Pay Act, by providing more effective remedies for women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work.

We also passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which created 3.3 million jobs, many of them held by American women in emerging industries such as clean energy.

The stimulus package passed by this House expanded opportunities for women and minorities in the transportation industry by investing in on-the-job training for them and even highway construction and transportation technology. It included technical assistance for them to obtain transportation infrastructure contracts, and is helping 3.5 million women students obtain higher education through the increases in the Pell Grant funding. It provided for key investments in early education by providing additional funding to increase Head Start enrollment by 65,000, creating 30,000 jobs for Head Start teachers and staff, while strengthening families, including some of the women-headed families.

Services for families and children were strengthened in the 111th Congress with the increased funding for child care development block grants and for programs to reduce violence against women.

In the 111th Congress, the Affordable Care Act increased access for the high number of uninsured women to access health care. For the insured, it made their insurance more secure, and it made it illegal for insurance companies to charge women more than men for the same coverage or to limit their choices by making caesarean deliveries or domestic violence preexisting conditions.

Our 1.8 million women veterans have the chance at improved health care with the expansion of the VA health care services by removing barriers and providing up to 7 days of care for newborn children of women veterans and by enhancing treatment for sexual trauma for women at the VA.

Much was done in the last Congress to enhance and protect the lives of women; but in this Congress, the 112th, it seems as though we are about to take giant steps backwards when it comes to the health, education, business, and finances of women and their families. The budget cuts being proposed to fund this year's budget and the next are definitely going to adversely impact the women of this country.

□ 2040

I see I have been joined by another of my colleagues, Congresswoman GWEN

MOORE of Wisconsin, and I would invite her to use as much time as she might consume or to enter in a dialogue if she would like.

Ms. MOORE. Thank you so much, gentlelady from the Virgin Islands. I am so pleased that you put this Special Order together to memorialize the contributions that African American women have made in this, our month of March, a tribute to all women.

As the Democratic cochair of the Women's Caucus, I am particularly proud to talk about some of the accomplishments and challenges, quite frankly, of African American women in this country. It is so obvious that we have to honor some of our ancestors on whose shoulders we stand, women like Harriet Tubman, who led slaves out of slavery, even at the point of a gun, a rifle, a strong African American woman that really instilled the kind of self-respect and self-esteem in the African American community, that strength of character that has helped us survive all kinds of tragedies in our community.

Sojourner Truth, of course, who really was engaged very heavily in the women's right to vote movement, in the suffrage movement. And of course Fannie Lou Hamer in Mississippi, who fought for the right to vote. And Rosa Parks, who fought to end the segregation in the South on accommodation. And really, moving through history, people like Madam C.J. Walker, first millionaire. So many people, I could just go on and on naming women in every field of business and entertainment, Oprah Winfrey, all the way of course to our very own first lady, our own great Michelle Robinson Obama.

But I think that such a tribute would not be complete if we did not recognize some of the people who are unknown to people, some of the unsung heroes within our own community. And I'm thinking of such a woman right now, a woman named Velvlea Phillips. Velvlea Phillips lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from North Division High School, my alma mater, the same school that Golda Meir graduated from, and it was at that time a predominantly white school, and she won an oratorical contest, and the school was reluctant to give her that prize because she was a black student, and of course, the majority white student body rebelled and insisted that she win the prize as an orator.

Velvlea Phillips later came to be known as Vel, affectionately as Vel Phillips, went on to run for alderman of the city of Milwaukee. There had never been a woman who had won a seat on the common council until Vel ran, and because she shortened her name from Velvlea to Vel, they thought she was a man. She didn't put any pictures on her literature. So they also did not know she was a black. So she was the first woman and the first black person to become an alderman in the city of Milwaukee.

She was the first black woman to graduate from the University of Wis-

consin Law School. She was the first black person to become a judge in Milwaukee County. She was the first black woman to ever serve on a national party committee in either the Democrat or the Republican national committee, the very first black woman. She is the first and only African American who has ever won a Statewide office in the State of Wisconsin.

She is alive and still kicking, and is a major force in the community brainstorming conference of Milwaukee, a sort of black think tank in Milwaukee that talks about all kinds of social situations in Milwaukee, very thriving organization in our community.

But even then it would be inappropriate to end this tribute without talking about those unknown women who have contributed so much, and I believe that this hour started out with your referencing some of these people. Madea, Big Mama, Aunt Peaches, Cousin Fannie, these people who dug deep into their pockets to pull out a very carefully folded \$20 bill to press into your hand as you went off to college to give you some support. Those people who scrubbed floors and were not proud to try to give you a better life than they had. Those people who held the family together when all else failed. And that is why African Americans have thrived and survived to the extent that they have because of the strength of the African American woman in our community.

I will tell you as a physician, gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, that African American women are facing some tremendous challenges right now. We live in America, and of course, African Americans are very proud to be American, but the fact still remains that there is no level playing field in America for African American women. Women in general only earn 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns, and of course, African American women earn even less than that.

And they're faced with so many challenges. With a very high incarceration rate among African American men, African American women are often finding themselves in situations where they are the sole breadwinners in a family where their wages are less than African American men or any men in this country.

African American women, though, have continued to show that they are overcomers; that they can step outside of their story; that they can stand in the truth of their power and continue to inspire generation after generation after generation of African Americans. And we see this so often when we think of people in our community who have been raised up by single female and single female heads of household but have continued to move forward.

We look at our own President, Barack Obama. He is an African American. His mother was not an African American woman but she mirrored the condition of so many African American

women in this country, finding themselves rearing African American children on their own.

And that is why I think it is important to come to this floor and to implore our colleagues to not eviscerate the kinds of support that makes so much difference to children. Like the Women, Infant, and Children program, where there have been efforts to cut that by \$747 million; efforts to cut Head Start; efforts to cut the maternal and child health block grant; efforts to cut out basic kinds of support that African American women need to support their often lonely task of trying to rear children who are already poor. And the genius of African American women to cobble together a living where there seems to be nothing is something that I admire a great deal and something, quite frankly, that I have been a beneficiary of.

My mother was the mother of nine children. I'm the eighth of nine children, and my mother was poor. At the point at which I was born, my mother had nine children and did not have a high school education. She went back to high school—this was prior to GED—she went back to high school when I was about 5 years old and she got an associate's degree after that, and she went on to graduate and become magna cum laude as an adult, and all this time she kept us fed with beans and cornbread and rice and plenty of fresh water out of Lake Michigan.

□ 2050

She believed firmly in taking us to church and feeding us at the trough of religion and good morality and having compassion and loving justice.

Her very best friend, Ceria Travis, who went to church with her, has a daughter, Dr. Dorothy Travis Moore, who has established a school in Milwaukee devoted to helping struggling African American men because they saw how these strong black women worked hard. And my mom and Mrs. Travis inspired a whole generation of African American men and women to strive for a life better than they had. My mom helped so many young people go on and win college scholarships. She used to train them and tutor them to be able to win scholarships from the local Masons and Elks oratorical contests.

This is why I can't stop, gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, because I had a role model in my own life of a sociological miracle, someone who overcame all of the things that had been said she couldn't do. So that is why, if people tell me that I cannot do something, I have what all children should have, and that is a background of someone who is close to them that says continuously, Yes, I can. Yes, I can. Yes, I can. And as black women, we can do it.

However scarce our resources, however austere these budgets are, we are not going to go away. We are Americans. We work hard. We have built this country, and we have provided this

country with a lot of genius. We have provided original music. We have provided inventions and agriculture. We have built this Capitol with our sweat, blood, and tears. And as African Americans, we are proud of the American part. And as black women, we have given birth not only to our children, but we have given birth to a great country.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank you for those words. And I know that those who are listening are really inspired by all of what you had to say. We are so proud and so very fortunate to have you as the cochair of the Women's Caucus in this Congress.

Before we close, to take us back to where we are today, I just want to recap that, among the actions being proposed in this Congress, there are some repeals that—yes, we're going to rise above them—but that will make things very difficult for not only African American women but women all across this country.

To recap: eliminating funding for the title X family planning program. These are the cuts that are being proposed in the CR for the rest of 2011 that eliminate the funding for the program that has provided family planning, breast and cervical cancer screening, and preventive health to low-income women. They propose to eliminate all Federal funding for Planned Parenthood, as we have heard, and to cut nutrition programs for pregnant women and their children; to cut Head Start and child care; to cut job training; to cut funding for college.

All of these are going to make it much harder for our young and our older women to do what Gwen's mom did and move themselves up the educational ladder and help to provide a bridge for the youngsters that come behind. Their plan to cut funding for college and Pell Grants, to halt the implementation of the health care law that, as you have heard, will do so much for not just women but for all Americans, those who are insured and those who are uninsured. It will cut maternal and child health funding and funding that helps school comply with title IX.

The CR that is proposed, the long-term CR for fiscal year 2011, also cuts funding for Social Security offices and support for senior programs, as the majority of Social Security recipients are women and of course are elderly, and many are poor. All of these programs and others are on the chopping block, and women will be greatly and adversely impacted by them.

As we honor the history of women in our country this month, let us not celebrate it with an assault on women and their families. Let's not make it more difficult for poor women and minority women, for children, for students, for seniors, for small business women, for the many who need these necessary supports if they are to be a part of the vibrant future that we envision for our country. These cuts make any praise of Women's History Month by our Repub-

lican colleagues mere lip service, no more than empty words in a time when women are vulnerable because of our economic crisis and when we need the programs that they are planning to cut. We need those programs more than ever.

In this month dedicated to women, we are calling on the leadership of the 112th Congress to continue to build, not to tear down, but to build on the gains we have made for women and for all Americans in the 111th Congress. Do not turn back the clock to a time that none of us want to go back to. Do not turn back the clock to a time that our country cannot afford to go back to if we are to be the number one country in this world.

We, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, dedicate this hour to the women of African descent, those known and unknown on whose shoulders we stand, the sturdy bridges that have brought us to where we are today. To them, we dedicate this hour, and we dedicate ourselves and our work on behalf of families and children, African American and all Americans here in this country and around the world.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, throughout March we celebrate the many achievements and accomplishments women have made in the United States and around the world.

Before the 1970s women's history was largely overlooked, but today we cannot ignore the significant contributions women have made in shaping our country and building for a brighter, more peaceful future.

The theme for the 2011 Women's History Month is "Our History Is Our Strength." Women's History Month celebrates millions of women who helped make our world a better place. We must continue to promote and encourage our future generation of young women and girls to strive for the very best.

In the 111th Congress, the Democratic-led Congress focused on a number of key concerns of America's women, including: quality affordable health care; investments to create jobs and stimulate growth; investments in early childhood education; providing resources for our military families; and ensuring equal pay for all of America's working women.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led House has moved in the opposite direction. House Republicans have passed a spending bill that reduces or eliminates funding to key women services and wellness programs. Their spending plan is projected to destroy up to 700,000 jobs and reduce economic growth. Ending vital programs and offering reckless spending proposals will only move our country backwards.

Mr. Speaker, while cuts are necessary to address the nation's long-term fiscal problems, cutting too deeply before the economy is in full expansion will add unnecessary risk to our economy and to America's women and families.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel delay due to heavy storms.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

842. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistant Payment Program (RIN: 0560-AI02) received February 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

843. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement; Publication of Notification of Bundling of Contracts of the Department of Defense (DFARS Case 2009-D033) received February 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

844. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Repeal of the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program (DFARS Case 2011-D001) received February 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

845. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's notification of the intention to obligate FY 2011 funds under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

846. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Payments in Support of Emergencies and Contingency Operations (DFARS Case 2009-D020) (RIN: 0750-AG56) received February 17, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

847. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — (General Provisions) Contract Appeals and the Acquisition Regulation: General, Acquisition Planning, and Contracting Methods and Contract Types (RIN: 1991-AB81) received February 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

848. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delegation of Authority to the States of Iowa; Kansas; Missouri; Nebraska; Lincoln-Lancaster County, NE; and City of Omaha, NE, for New Source Performance

Standards (NSPS), National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) including Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards [EPA-R07-OAR-2010-0908; FRL-9271-6] received February 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

849. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters; National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Industrial, Commercial, Institutional Boilers; Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units: Notice of Reconsideration [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0058; EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0790; EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0119; FRL-9272-7] (RIN: 2060-AQ25; RIN: 2060-AM44; RIN: 2060-AO12) received February 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

850. A letter from the Deputy Chief, OET, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Measurement Standards for Digital Television Signals Pursuant to the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004 [ET Docket No.: 06-94] received February 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

851. A letter from the Co-Chairs, Commission on Wartime Contracting, transmitting the Commission's Second Interim Report "At what risk? Correcting over-reliance on contractors in contingency operations"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

852. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-139, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

853. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-116, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

854. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2010 report on U.S. Government Assistance to and Cooperative Activities with Eurasia, pursuant to Public Law 102-511, section 104; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

855. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Appeal Authority When Researcher Privileges Are Revoked [NARA-10-0005] (RIN: 3095-AB69) received February 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

856. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS 350 B, BA, B1, B2, B3, and D, and Model AS350 E, F, F1, F2, and N Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0611; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-18-AD; Amendment 39-16487; AD 2010-22-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

857. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Enhanced Enforcement Authority Procedures [Docket No.: PHMSA-2005-22356] (RIN: 2137-AE13) received February 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

858. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Incorporation of Certain Cargo Tank Special Permits into Regulations [Docket No.: PHMSA-2010-0017 (HM-245)] (RIN: 2137-AE56) received February 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

859. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations, International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, and the International Civil Aviation Organization Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air [Docket Nos.: PHMSA-2009-0126 (HM-215K)] (RIN: 2137-AE45) received February 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

860. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — NASA Implementation of Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Award Fee Language Revision (RIN: 2700-AD69) received February 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

861. A letter from the Deputy Director, Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of Homeland Security Implementation of OMB Guidance on Drug-Free Workplace Requirements [Docket No.: DHS-2010-0028] (RIN: 1601-AA62) received February 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

862. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Requirements for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities; Notice of Facility Closure [CMS-3230-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AQ09) received February 17, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. Supplemental report on H.R. 839. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis (Rept. 112-31, Pt. 2).

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. Supplemental report on H.R. 861. A bill to rescind the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and to terminate the program (Rept. 112-32, Pt. 2).

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 167. Resolution providing

for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 48) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-33). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COBLE):

H.R. 1056. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to false marking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):

H.R. 1057. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FLEMING (for himself, Mr. BARROW, Mr. NUGENT, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H.R. 1058. A bill to allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040SR; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1059. A bill to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1060. A bill to amend the Act of September 30, 1961, commonly known as the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961, to remove the antitrust immunity otherwise applicable to professional football teams under such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD (for himself, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 1061. A bill to require Federal agencies to show receipts and expenditures every two weeks on agency websites; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HAYWORTH (for herself, Mr. GARRETT, and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H.R. 1062. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to repeal certain additional disclosure requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1063. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. BOSWELL:

H.R. 1064. A bill to rescind amounts for certain surface transportation programs; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. MICA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. COOPER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BERG, Mr.

NUGENT, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. WEST):

H.R. 1065. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for increased penalties for operators of pill mills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 1066. 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 of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1067. A bill to rescind earmarks for certain surface transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:

H.R. 1068. A bill to provide for the more accurate computation of retirement benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 1069. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an election for unmarried, nonitemizing individuals to have their returns prepared by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H.R. 1070. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt a certain class of securities from such Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1071. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1072. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the "Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1073. A bill to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 1074. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the corporate income tax rate to 10 percent and to lower the rate of tax on capital gains and dividends to 10 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas):

H.R. 1075. A bill to repeal the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 1056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress' authority under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 1058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Amendment 16 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 and Clause 18; and Article III, Section I of the Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 1061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 1062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BOSWELL:

H.R. 1064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 1065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power to enact this legislation is granted in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:
H.R. 1068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 1069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1, which states that Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 1074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 1075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 states, "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes. . . ."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 10: Mr. CARTER and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H.R. 11: Ms. HANABUSA and Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.
H.R. 24: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 27: Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 49: Mr. TURNER, Mr. FINCHER, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LANDRY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WEST, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MICA, Mr. AKIN, Mr. UPTON, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BOREN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. HALL, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. JONES, Mr. COLE, Mr. BONNER, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 104: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 114: Mr. WEST, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 122: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 143: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 198: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 237: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 303: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 308: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 350: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 396: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 420: Mr. RIVERA, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 426: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 431: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 432: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 440: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 471: Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 488: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 511: Mr. RIVERA.

H.R. 535: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 539: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 553: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 567: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 575: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

H.R. 609: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 700: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 711: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 733: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DICKS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 735: Mr. OLSON and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 747: Mr. WELCH and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 750: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. ADAMS, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 773: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 780: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 782: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 822: Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 863: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BACA, Mr. FARR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 870: Ms. NORTON and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 878: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 883: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr.

KUCINICH, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 885: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 894: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 895: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 898: Mr. STARK and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 900: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 909: Mr. QUAYLE.

H.R. 910: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 925: Mr. CLAY and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 930: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 937: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FLEMING, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. RIGELL, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. YODER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. REED, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. AMASH, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 943: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 948: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 964: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 973: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 984: Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. RUNYAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 987: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 999: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1000: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1023: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1055: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.J. Res. 37: Mr. CANSECO, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Res. 71: Mr. AKIN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. COBLE.

H. Res. 88: Mr. LUJÁN and Ms. SUTTON.

H. Res. 111: Mr. NEAL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. JENKINS.

H. Res. 137: Mr. WELCH, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 142: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 148: Mr. KISSELL.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. DANIEL E. LUNGREN OF CALIFORNIA

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in

H. Con. Res. 27, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, we praise You because of Your righteousness, and lift our hearts in adoration to You, the King, Most High. Pour eternity into these brief lives of ours and use us for Your glory.

Lift our lawmakers to the heights of noble living, renewing them with Your hope and strengthening them with Your power. Lord show them how to make wise use of their days to become the people they ought to be and to do the things that make for peace in our Nation and world. May their highest motive be not to win over one another, but to win with one another by doing Your will.

Lord, we ask that You sustain the victims of the seismic devastation in Japan. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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, there will be a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 4:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10, the nomination of James Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia. There will be up to 1 hour of debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on that nomination.

Senators should expect two rollcall votes at 5:30. They will be in relation to the confirmation of James Boasberg and cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 493, the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2011.

The current continuing resolution expires this Friday. We expect the House to send us a 3-week CR on Tuesday or Wednesday. We hope we can work out an agreement to consider the bill before the end of this week.

DOING THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my thoughts and those of the entire Na-

tion, and certainly every Member of the Senate, are with the people of Japan. The earthquake that shook that nation has made the entire world tremble, and the tsunami that swept over its shores has engulfed us all with grief.

We are heartbroken at the images we have seen and the stories we have heard. We share the agony of the families who have lost loved ones and the anguish of those still searching for the missing.

The earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent catastrophes have created a humanitarian crisis of the first order, and the United States will do everything we can to ease Japan's pain and help it heal. As the devastation and rescue efforts continue, we know Japan and the world will meet this tragedy with tenacity and will respond to the immense loss with immeasurable hope.

This dreadful disaster is not stronger than the people of Japan's resolve to recover and rebuild, and it is no match for America's determination to help a friend in need.

Mr. President, it is difficult to think of the Senate's business at such a time as this, but we must. It is difficult to think of the Senate's business after hundreds of thousands of lives have been forever changed in an instant. Every matter seems immaterial in comparison, and our use of the adjective "emergency" when discussing budget concerns seems so misplaced.

But we must also focus on the business of our great country, and that is what the Senate will do this week. I hope both parties and both Houses will find the courage to come together before the weekend on a plan to fund the country.

I remind my Republican colleagues that this Friday's deadline is one they set; we didn't. We asked for 4 weeks to work, and they demanded 2 weeks. They asked for March 18. March 18 awaits us at the other end of this week, so it is time to get serious.

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



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S1573

Last week's budget votes proved what we have been saying throughout this negotiation: We must meet in the middle. The distance between Democrats and Republicans is not measured in money only. I regret to report that so far we remain far more divided on the willingness to compromise.

Democrats have made it crystal clear that we are determined to pass a budget. We recognize the reality that one party alone will not reach a resolution without the other party's cooperation and consent. We have accepted and acknowledged that we need to share the sacrifice. Democrats are willing to find reasonable ways to do that, and we have offered necessary cuts that will strengthen our future rather than weaken it. But we are still waiting for the Republicans to do the same. They are pretending that last week's votes didn't happen. They are covering their eyes and ears to the reality that their proposal—a shortsighted bill the tea party and the Republicans in the House of Representatives continue to support—was roundly rejected in the Senate.

We are still waiting for them to bring something—anything—new to the table. They have not done that yet. Listen to the Republican speeches and sound bites and you will hear no reasonable cuts, no serious offer, no willingness to compromise, and no sense of shared responsibility. You will hear no new ideas.

We can't afford another week of these games. We cannot negotiate through the media, and we cannot negotiate if one side is unwilling to give any ground.

We cannot keep funding the country a couple weeks at a time. How many times have we heard our Republican friends decry uncertainty, claiming it hurts job creation and worries the markets. How quickly they have forgotten their own advice.

Mr. President, it is time to lead. On this point, Democrats have been very clear. I hope the solution is at hand. But if no budget passes—if we cannot keep the country running—it will be clear which side will bear that burden.

This week, we will also start debating another jobs bill. We did the FAA bill, the patent bill, and we are told by the experts that is almost 600,000 jobs. The bill we are going to take up now will help small businesses do what American businesses do best: imagine, innovate, and invent.

Our bill that we will soon discuss will support a research and development program that has helped tens of thousands of small businesses create jobs and shape the future since President Reagan started the program three decades ago.

These investments work. They have helped get new ideas off the ground—everything from the electric toothbrush to a satellite antenna that helped our first responders in Haiti, to technologies that keep our food safe and our military's tanks from overheating in the desert.

One company in Carson City, NV, has used this small business innovation program's support to create technology that helps firefighters reach people on the highest floors of burning buildings. Another Nevada company from Henderson has developed an advanced rechargeable battery that our troops are using in the field. There are success stories such as this in every State because of this legislation that was enacted initially almost 30 years ago.

Small businesses are the laboratories of visionaries who create jobs and cultivate ideas. We, in turn, must help these businesses grow and succeed. That is what this bill will do.

Finally, let me say something briefly about gas prices. This budget debate has shown a stark contrast between our Nation's serious challenges and the lack of bipartisan agreement on serious solutions. The same is true when it comes to energy.

Drivers across the country are watching gas prices go up and up. They are worried about how expensive it is to drive to work in the morning or to pick up their kids from school or just to get to the grocery store and back. It is a serious challenge. But I am disappointed that the Republicans refuse to join us in offering a serious solution.

We know why gas prices are going up. First, the Middle East nations from which we import the vast majority of oil are in turmoil. That hurts production and exports. Second, OPEC and greedy investors control a widely speculative market. Third, big oil cannot quench its thirst for record profits, and it will pursue them at any cost to the consumer.

The Republican reflex is a replay of the same script we have seen time and time again. The Republican reflex is to demand more drilling, as if that will instantly ease the price at the pump. It is an easy argument to make. It will nicely line the pockets of their friends in big oil. It sounds simple, but as a solution to high gas prices, it is plain fiction.

Here is a little-known fact: The United States produced more oil in 2009 than in any year since 2003. So for all of the rightwing's finger-pointing at President Obama, it is worth noting that we have drilled more oil since President Obama has been in office.

In fact, when President Bush was in the White House, field production of crude oil dropped every single year. In his last year in office, prices and oil company profits rose to record highs. So let's retire the tired talking point that President Obama is sitting on the solution.

In fact, it is those same big oil companies that are quite literally sitting on that oil that Republicans demand. Big oil is sitting on more than 60 million acres of Federal land and water that they have leased and have a right to drill on. That means nearly 20 percent of our Nation's oil refining capacity sits idle. They have shown more interest in making profits than in making oil.

Let's pretend for a minute they did do the drilling. Even if big oil drilled on all of its offshore leases, it would have no impact on the price of gasoline during the whole next decade. By 2030, it might lower those prices by 3 cents a gallon. That is not my calculation; that comes from the Energy Information Agency.

Let's not forget the big picture: The U.S. consumes nearly 25 percent of the world's oil, but we have less than 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, and they are rapidly declining. We are addicted to oil and are at the mercy of big oil and OPEC for its price.

Instead of shortsighted straw men, let's use the alternatives we have at home, such as solar, wind, and geothermal energy, which are abundant in places such as Nevada. Let's encourage these investments, not cut them as the Republicans' budget plan proposes. Their budget plan would drastically affect the ability to do more with renewable energy.

These renewable energy sources are cleaner for the environment, wiser for our national security, and more stable for our economy. Best of all, they are made in the U.S.A. and will create jobs in our country.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the morning business time is not divided. It is under the control of whoever gets here; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. 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.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak for up to 15 minutes. I understand Senator KYL will be joining us shortly.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. I come to the floor to urge my colleagues to consider voting yes on cloture this afternoon at

5:30, to proceed to a debate on two very important Federal programs that come under the jurisdiction of the Small Business Committee. I know the Presiding Officer has been a leader in his State on this general subject matter. Our committee has worked very hard in the Senate, and in the House I might add, to get these programs ready for reauthorization. They are the Federal Government's largest research and development programs for small business.

As you know, I have said many times on the floor, as chair of the Small Business Committee I want and hope the Federal Government itself would be a better partner with small businesses in America to encourage innovation, to encourage appropriate risk-taking. We can do that in a variety of different ways.

Of course, we have authority over banking systems and capital systems and financial systems. We sometimes do that with just big business in mind. We need to think about giving the 27 million small businesses in America opportunities for capital through the banking system and through nonbank lenders. Our committee has been very busy trying to do our part helping our country out of this recession by continuing to focus on capital access for small business.

We also keep a close eye on regulations that might be dampening small businesses from growing and accelerating. Whether those financial regulations come out of the financial sector or health or EPA, et cetera, we try to keep an eye, in the Small Business Administration itself—in fact, an independent agency inside it, the SBA's Office of Advocacy—to look at rules and regulations. Our committee is going to take a hard look at any rule or regulation coming out of any Federal agencies that miss the mark or that fail to recognize the impact some of those regulations may have on small business. If it is too onerous, we are going to comment and push back.

Another way our Federal Government can be a better partner to small business is to make sure they have access to some of the Federal Government's research and development and technology funds. From the Department of Defense, to the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Commerce, and others, the Federal Government spends literally billions of dollars in research and development. That is good. It is only a small portion of our budget.

Some people argue the research and development dollars are too low because the Federal Government, by investing in research and development wisely, generates and promotes patents, inventions, discoveries, expansion of business, large and small. In fact, America does this probably better than any country in the world and we are proud of it. The Federal Government has a role to play.

This particular program I will focus on today—the Small Business Innova-

tion Research program—was started by Senator Rudman over 25—actually almost 30 years ago now. Senator Rudman was a Senator from New Hampshire. As a Senator from a small State such as New Hampshire, he was, of course, very familiar with the great universities and the great small businesses there. He was actually shocked, and I think dismayed and saddened, to find out that small businesses in his own State had, even if they were inventing some of the best products, and had some of the best technology, couldn't get their foot in the front door to an agency such as the NIH. They didn't want to talk to a small business. They wanted to talk to the universities. They wanted to talk to the big companies. I think Senator Rudman got a little frustrated. He said: I think we need to have not a ceiling but a floor for amount of research agencies do with the small businesses in all of our communities, on Main Streets all over America, and say: What do you have to offer, and we will give you an opportunity.

This works two ways. It is good for small businesses to have access to some of these research and development dollars. It is also important for the taxpayer to get the best bang for their buck they are paying in taxes, and they want the best technology—not just the easiest to access, they want the best technology.

Having invested in this program now over almost 30 years, we have evidence to suggest the taxpayer has, in fact, gotten the best bang for its buck. In fact, these companies I am going to show you will prove, beyond a doubt, what I am saying.

This company, Qualcomm, is a very famous company now, but 25 years ago or so, no one had ever heard of it. Qualcomm is a company based in San Diego, CA. It is publicly owned now, but its founder—Dr. Irwin Jacobs—testified before our Small Business Committee a couple of weeks ago on this program, urging us to do this reauthorization, which is going to take the bulk of the debate on the floor this week—this particular program. He said: Absolutely, positively, Qualcomm would not have been able to launch as a small business that started in his den with about 35 of his friends and associates—not 35 in the beginning, even a smaller number than that—who had come up with the initial technology that made wireless communication possible. They did that, in part, with a couple of SBIR grants, about \$1.5 million in total. Without that patient capital invested in a very timely way in this particular company, they would probably not have been able to make it to become what that eventually did become, which is a company that contributes approximately \$5.5 billion to San Diego's economy every year and pays in taxes over \$1 billion every year to the local, State, and Federal Government. That is half the cost of this program. So one success story out of this

program generates enough tax dollars to pay for almost half every year.

This program doesn't cost the Federal Government anything because we are already investing in research and development. What this program does is say you are going to allocate 2.5 percent of your research dollars for competition among small businesses—to invest in small businesses just like Qualcomm once was—in the hopes that they will develop into large businesses—or, even more important, that they will develop something that improves the quality of life for Americans and for people of the world.

Most certainly, now that everyone is walking around with wireless technology, using it for any number of things—staying in touch with spouses, kids, from tracking threats to general business use—we know this technology has become a part of everyone's life. Qualcomm is only one example of the return on investment with the SBIR program.

Another involved the pilot alert system for the B-52 bomber. That technology again came out of the SBIR Program. Reauthorizing this program is something we know is important to do to create jobs, to begin to create the kind of jobs that will lead us out of this recession. Innovation equals jobs, technology equals jobs.

There is another success story I would like to share. This is actually from Louisiana. There are actually success stories from every State in the Union. Mezzo Technologies was created with the help of LSU and SBIR. Dr. Kevin Kelly started with two employees. Now his payroll exceeds \$1.2 million.

We ran into problems when we invaded Iraq and Afghanistan trying to run our tanks in places that were extremely hot. The radiators we had designed were not sufficient. We were running into serious equipment challenges.

It was this small business, with the help of LSU, that began to develop new kinds of technologies that now can be used for our military, in this case in the Bradley tank. But it also has potential for significant commercial application, potentially in the race car industry. That is an example of how technology needed for a specific problem the Federal Government is having, responded to by small business—not a big company, a small company—new technologies can create the radiators of the future.

Small businesses are the key to putting Americans back to work. They are the innovators. In fact, small businesses account for 13 times more patents than large businesses. Small businesses employ almost 40 percent of American scientists and engineers. Studies show SBIR-backed firms have been responsible for roughly 25 percent of the Nation's most crucial innovations over the past decade.

Unfortunately, and this is why I am on the floor today, this important program that does so much to give taxpayers the full measure and worth of their tax dollar, that gives small businesses the opportunity to grow, to create jobs right here in America—not in China, not in France or in Spain but right here in America—these programs have been sputtering. This particular program has been sputtering on short-term extensions. Every 3 months we reauthorize it—or every 6 months. We need to move forward and provide a longer term extension. The bill we are going to be debating this week provides an 8-year authorization, which gives some certainty. It gives some stability to the 11 Federal agencies that use SBIR to help meet its research and development needs, to help the 300 labs in the United States of America that do primarily research and development for the Federal Government. It sends out a clear signal to innovators: The Federal Government has challenges, the Federal Government has problems, and now we are putting some money behind these challenges and problems and we want you to be part of the solution.

We believe in this program. I wish to thank particularly Senator TOM COBURN for negotiating this 8-year extension, a little bit longer than a normal 5 but less than what some of us wanted initially, permanency and then the 14-year authorization—because we think long-term stability is so important for these programs.

The agencies have to do some more work—our Federal agencies do—to step up their administration of this program, to get even better at putting out the needs of their agencies, identifying small businesses, so we want to give them the confidence this program is actually going to last for more than a few months, 2 years or 3 years or even 4. So this 8-year authorization is important.

I am proud, under my leadership, and also previously under the leadership of Senator SNOWE and Senator KERRY, we have worked very hard together to get this bill into its current form. In the very last hours of the last Congress, we were actually able to negotiate a landmark compromise with the Biotechnology Industry Organization—formally known as the BIO—and the Small Business Technology Coalition. They had been basically at odds over some aspects of this reauthorization. Because we worked very hard and in good faith, both sides came together, we have now achieved a compromise which has the support of the National Small Business Administration, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the NFIB, the National Venture Capital Association, local technology groups, many universities throughout the country, including my alma mater, Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech, the University of Akron, in Ohio—just to name a few.

I wish to make sure people understand, not only from examples, what

this program will fund; in terms of Qualcomm, which was an earlier example, wireless technology, or whether it is a radiator used in military equipment, both in our tanks and sometimes used in other platforms, but also this technology can be used potentially in the racing car industry.

No other SBIR and STTR reauthorization bill has had this much support of this many organizations, and this compromise is represented in the bill we have laid down or we will be passing forward today.

The agencies have been particularly cooperative, particularly Department of Defense, USDA, and the Department of Energy. Along with Health and Human Services, they have the lion's share of these research budgets. DOD, it is not an insignificant amount, it is over \$1 billion. The Department of Defense will invest in small businesses to get the best technologies available, such as the radiator technology they need for our tanks.

HHS has \$615 million. It is a very small part of their total research budget but an important part, so when they put out the challenge to small businesses in America to come up with the next newest vaccine or the next medical technology or information technology that saves taxpayer money and helps provide better quality of life for all Americans, that word will go out from HHS.

DOE has \$150 million available to invest in small business; NASA \$125 million, just to name a few.

So not only will the taxpayers benefit, but small businesses and the people they hire as well. Many of these advanced technologies, developed by businesses that could have started in your garage or your den, such as Qualcomm, could not have existed without those programs. They are the brainchild of a scientist who took his idea to the next level, and had this program to get that first \$150,000, and then that first \$1 million.

I am urging all of my colleagues to support moving to this bill this afternoon. It passed out of the Small Business Committee last week nearly unanimously, and has continued to gain large bipartisan support publicly and privately. The CBO estimates a very modest cost of \$150 million over 5 years. We have made changes that have decreased the estimate from last year's cost of \$229 million.

We believe this \$150 million is a fantastic investment for the Federal Government to place research dollars in the hands of some of the best, most dynamic, most innovative entrepreneurs on the face of the Earth today. We want to give them an opportunity, particularly in tight credit and capital markets, to access these funds at the Federal level to produce the kind of goods and services and, most importantly, jobs for the future.

I see my time has expired. Again, I look forward to coming down with my members of the Small Business Com-

mittee to talk more about this bill as the week unfolds. I urge my colleagues today at 5:30 to vote yes for cloture on this important bill so we can pass it out of the Senate today, get it over to the House as quickly as we can, and to the President's desk for signature.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. 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. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we are going to have a vote a little bit later this afternoon to proceed to a bill which I do not happen to think is a very good bill, but I am going to vote to proceed to it, because the majority leader has made clear we will have the opportunity to offer amendments. I know some of my colleagues specifically wish to offer amendments to get to the heart of the subject that should be most on our minds today, which is reducing wasteful Washington spending, to get our fiscal house in order. In order to provide that opportunity, we should, in my view, proceed to that legislation so we can offer those amendments. We should be laser-like focused on the deficit, the debt, the spending of the Congress, and what we can do to get a handle on that spending, so that we do not mortgage our children's future.

It starts, of course, with a budget. A few weeks ago, the President submitted his budget to Congress, but it seems to me the message that budget sends is one of more spending, bigger government, and one that trumps America's well-founded concerns about this huge debt we are piling up and how it jeopardizes our Nation's future.

Under this budget, the debt held by the public will double by the end of this President's term in 2012 and then triple by 2019, to an astonishing \$7.3 billion. Think about that for a moment. In all of our history, from 1789, from George Washington through George W. Bush, we accumulated roughly \$5 billion of debt. This President's budget, in his first term, will double that. So in the term of President Obama, we will accumulate as much debt as every President of the United States combined before that. That is too much. It will triple in the next 5 years. That is what we are talking about with regard to this budget. The debt is actually going to be larger than our entire economy. Think of the attendant consequences.

It not only undermines confidence in our economy, but it crushes private sector investment and, therefore, job creation. This budget punts on everything serious we need to do to bring down the debt. It accelerates our path to national bankruptcy, it ignores all the major components of the President's debt commission's deficit financing or reduction plan. It punts on serious spending cuts and punts on entitlement reforms.

In fact, the Washington Post editorialized the day after the budget was submitted, calling the President the "Punter in Chief." It is a failure of leadership, and it indicates to me that the President is not taking the debt problem seriously.

As Erskine Bowles, who was the Democratic chairman of the President's fiscal commission, said, "The White House budget request goes nowhere near where they will need to have to go to resolve our fiscal nightmare."

We cannot spend, borrow, and tax our way to prosperity. Unfortunately, that is what the budget request proposes to do. Let me review a few key facts and some of the numbers in the budget. Under the category of "it spends too much," the size of the Federal Government would nearly double since the day President Obama took office. Let me say that again. Under the President's budget, the size of the Federal Government will nearly double since the day he took office.

You cannot claim with a straight face that represents anything close to fiscal discipline. Over the next 10 years, the President proposes \$3.7 trillion in new spending in this budget, with \$46 trillion in total spending. Spending in the 2012 fiscal year is projected to be a record \$3.8 trillion or 25.3 percent of the gross domestic product, which is the highest spending ratio to GDP since World War II.

I will note that while the President has touted the 5-year \$400 billion in spending freezes in his budgets, those freezes merely lock in spending levels reached after the massive spending binge that occurred on his watch. In my view, the status quo is not good enough. It is like closing the door to the barn after the horse is already gone. The President says his spending would cut \$1.1 trillion over the coming decade. Yes, that is true, but that is from what he planned to spend. So if he made an extraordinarily irresponsible request for spending and then cuts it by \$1 trillion, it is not something to be cheering about. The figure is smaller than the projected \$1.5 trillion deficit for the year 2011 alone. We need to do and we can do much better.

Under the category "it borrows too much," the budget adds \$13 trillion in new debt by the end of the decade. Gross debt by the end of the decade will reach \$26.3 trillion or 107 percent of gross domestic product. That figure eclipses the size of the entire economy.

Gross debt is projected to remain above 100 percent of GDP for every fol-

lowing year. The effects of high debt on an economy are well known. They include fewer jobs, less investing, and a lower standard of living, and that is not acceptable.

Under the category of "taxes too much," in total the President's budget includes \$1.6 trillion in new taxes on families, small businesses, and job creators. Much of that is new taxes on energy, including on the gasoline we buy, and new taxes on ObamaCare, the health care reform. In fact, the President's health care bill is mentioned more than 250 times in the IRS's fiscal year 2012 budget request. The IRS has said it will have to hire thousands of new workers to implement the new taxes in the health care law. Let's remember, we are not in our current predicament because we are an undertaxed nation. It is because of wasteful Washington spending.

I am deeply disappointed the administration has not put together a more responsible and serious budget proposal. I had hoped the White House had received the message that Americans sent in the last election about spending and debt and the size of our government. It is time for us to make tough choices. We need to focus on pro-growth policies, which includes much lower levels of spending and borrowing, and leaving more money in the private sector where it can be put to good use, including job creation.

Republicans want to work with the President to seriously cut government spending and bring down the debt. House Republicans took the first step by putting together a proposal that will cut spending to 2008 levels. That is the level prior to the Obama era spending binge, a binge which included, among other things, the failed stimulus plan and other massive spending bills.

That is the kind of meaningful action we need. I ask the President: Lead. Work with our leaders on both sides of the aisle to do a better job of promoting prosperity through much more sensible fiscal policies.

As I said, my colleagues will have amendments they will be bringing to the floor this week in an effort to point him in the right direction.

Another thing that is of concern to Americans and that we ought to be doing something about here at the Federal Government level is the problem of energy production and the implications of that through things such as higher gas prices.

Notably, the Energy Department recently estimated that the average American household can expect to spend \$700 more at the gas pump this year than it did in 2010. Since President Obama came into office our gasoline prices have doubled.

In a tight oil market, new domestic supply can have a very positive impact on gasoline prices, and developing that supply would create many well-paying American jobs. So, today, I want to talk about national policies in support

of affordable, new domestic energy. This is an opportunity for government to set the stage for job creation in the private sector, rather than continue its attempts to create jobs on its own through costly legislation.

Although we import 63 percent of our oil, America has abundant supplies of both oil and natural gas here at home. In a Washington Post op-ed published in 2008, columnist Robert Samuelson wrote that "it may surprise Americans to discover that the United States is the third largest oil producer, behind Saudi Arabia and Russia. We could be producing more, but Congress has put large areas of potential supply off limits. They include the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and parts of Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico."

So, why have not these energy development projects moved forward?

Let me provide some background. Before leaving office, President George W. Bush lifted an executive moratorium that had previously barred oil and natural gas development in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and Congress subsequently rescinded a statutory moratorium that year. These actions were intended to open an estimated 5.8 million acres in the central gulf to oil leasing and make as much as 16 billion barrels of oil available.

However, after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the gulf in 2010, the Obama administration imposed a new moratorium that all but halted deepwater exploration and development in the area.

A number of investigations were conducted to determine the cause of the Deepwater Horizon accident and protect against similar incidents in the future, and that was appropriate. But it was neither necessary nor wise to halt all off-shore energy exploration and development in response to the spill. The country needs a reliable supply of oil to fuel our cars, homes, and power plants, not to mention satisfy the numerous manufacturing processes that rely on oil. Locking away the vast supply of oil in the deep waters of the gulf merely increased our Nation's vulnerability to oil shocks emanating from abroad, and put consumers at risk of higher gas prices.

Despite Federal court orders, it was not until the end of February 2011 that the Interior Department finally issued the first permit to allow the resumption of energy exploration and development. Unfortunately, the permit was for just a single project. Essentially, the moratorium has become a "permit-torium," or an extreme slow down of drilling permits allocated by the administration. This slow down has included delays, suspensions, revocations, and cancellations of lease permits. These moratoriums have caused six deepwater rigs to depart the gulf for other countries, taking valuable jobs, revenue, and income with them.

Others may soon leave as well. Former President Bill Clinton understands the damaging impact these de-

facto moratoriums have on the economy. Last Friday, he called the continued delays “ridiculous.”

Just as we should reopen the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico to prudent exploration and development, so too should we lift the moratorium preventing job-creating development of resource-rich areas such as Alaska’s Outer Continental Shelf, as well as oil shale in various Western States.

Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska has pointed out that her State has estimated oil reserves in excess of 65 years’ worth of Persian Gulf oil imports. Yet they are virtually off limits.

As Alaska’s Governor, Sean Parnell, wrote in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed:

If Americans wonder what our economic Achilles’ heel is, they need look no further than the federal regulatory system that delays permits for domestic exploration and production.

The Federal Government estimates that Alaska’s Outer Continental Shelf holds 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. We could be drilling now in the Arctic Ocean off the coast of Alaska if the Environmental Protection Agency would speed things up and issue an air permit. Developing these resources would not only generate vast new supplies but translate to a lot of good jobs. In fact, a new study by Northern Economics and the University of Alaska Anchorage’s Institute of Social and Economic Research shows that development of oil and gas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas of Alaska’s Outer Continental Shelf would create 54,700 new jobs that would be sustained for 50 years. An estimated \$63 billion would be paid to employees in Alaska, and another \$82 billion would be paid to employees in the rest of the United States.

As the report notes:

Domestic energy production is important for the security and prosperity of the United States. The money spent on domestic energy cycles through the U.S. economy, thereby increasing domestic activity and jobs.

Another resource-rich area in Alaska is ANWR. Despite being one of the largest resources of oil and gas in the United States, Alaska’s ANWR is off limits for energy development. Tapping oil and gas supplies in ANWR would require opening just 2,000 acres of the 19 million-acre Arctic Plain to such development.

Remember, ANWR was specifically set aside by Congress for oil and gas exploration and development. It was specifically created for that purpose. This 2,000 acres would be the equivalent of the airport in Phoenix, called Phoenix Sky Harbor, inside an area the size of South Carolina—hardly noticeable.

Using directional drilling with a small environmental footprint, at least 1 million barrels of oil a day could be obtained from just this one area for the next 20 years. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that the area could have up to 16 billion barrels of recover-

able oil, an amount that is equivalent to 30 years of Saudi oil imports.

Analysis from Arctic Power shows that opening ANWR to oil and gas production would create approximately 730,000 jobs.

Those opposed to developing these resources often make the argument that it will take 10 years to open ANWR. But if President Clinton had not vetoed legislation authorizing Arctic development in 1995, oil would likely be flowing from the area today, easing prices and helping to insulate our economy from the whims of OPEC. Continued delay will only put our Nation further at risk.

A few final points about abundant onshore oil resources—permits for which have also been blocked by the administration. In 2009, the administration canceled 77 oil and gas leases in Utah and in 2010 canceled another 61 in Montana. It has been estimated that the United States has approximately 800 billion barrels of technically recoverable shale oil, which is roughly three times more than the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia. Again, it is all off limits.

Finally, a note about the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In recent days, some of my colleagues have called for tapping into the SPR to bring down gas prices. But this Strategic Petroleum Reserve is a national security tool to guard against an economically threatening disruption in oil supplies. It was never intended to be used to lower gas prices. Our problem today is not a matter of supply. We have plenty of supply.

Since its creation in 1995, a Presidentially directed release from SPR has occurred only twice—in 1995, at the beginning of Operation Desert Storm, and in 2005, after the devastation Hurricane Katrina caused in the Gulf of Mexico. The current SPR inventory is 720 million barrels, which equates to about 34 days of oil at current daily U.S. consumption. Tapping the Reserve is nothing more than a short-term political solution to a problem largely of the administration’s own making—its continued refusal to allow access to our Nation’s plentiful resources.

The benefits of increasing domestic energy production are unquestionable, especially at a time when gas prices are soaring and good jobs are needed by many Americans. I urge the administration to move swiftly in favor of issuing more production permits and urge my colleagues to support policies in favor of increased domestic energy production. There is no reason for further delay.

One of the most eloquent spokesman for this same point is on the floor, the Senator from Louisiana.

I am happy to yield the floor to her. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to follow the remarks of the Senator from Arizona and associate myself with part of his remarks that have to do with the energy policy of our country.

I am disappointed in the administration’s reluctance to get the Gulf of Mexico back to work. We did have a terrible tragedy in April, almost a year ago, April 20, the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. For 40 years or longer, 40,000 wells have been drilled safely in the gulf, in shallow water and in deep, since 1940, deep water coming into play in about 1985. Up until the Deepwater Horizon accident, this industry had acted responsibly in large measure with cutting-edge technologies. Yes, we have to continue to investigate what happened, but shutting down so much of our domestic drilling with the unrest in other parts of the world is not the right policy.

I associate myself with the remarks of the Senator on energy as well as tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is not a crisis of supply; it is a crisis of pricing. SPR should only be tapped when there is a supply issue. We can get back to drilling more at home and be efficient in other places.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Ms. LANDRIEU. What I really wish to talk about is to give my heartfelt condolences to the people of Japan. We have watched all weekend, my family and I, in horror, watching the scene unfold with the terrible catastrophe that struck Japan on Friday afternoon, following the earthquake, 9.0 on the Richter scale, followed by a terrible tsunami, a wave of water in some places 30 feet high that devastated coastal communities. Some of the pictures are reminiscent of what happened to us on the gulf coast about 5½ years ago when a 30-foot wave came ashore right into Gulfport and Biloxi and the catastrophe of manmade proportion, in our case, when the Federal levy system broke and 1,800 people lost their lives. But this situation in Japan is the worst crisis, according to their Prime Minister, since the Second World War.

It is going to take all of our best efforts, governments around the world, individuals, corporations, and businesses, to be generous. I hope the people of Louisiana and our cities and communities will be generous because we were so benefited by the warm generosity of the people of Japan and many volunteers who came from all over the country and the world.

I hope, as this week of search and rescue comes to a close, there will be time for debris cleanup and rebuilding and mental health counseling—all of the things that go into helping an area of the country survive and grow back. I know the people of Japan were as prepared as any country could be for a situation such as this, but the events of that day have overwhelmed one of the best and most organized governments in the world.

I am heartbroken to hear that thousands of people are yet unaccounted for. Our hearts go out to them. I hope our Nation will be generous in this time, not only from a charitable and

moral standpoint, but Japan is one of the strongest economies in the world.

From the State I represent, Louisiana, we are their second largest trading partner as a State. The people of Louisiana and all of our States have a vested interest in Japan getting back on its feet, getting better and stronger. We are still in the process of rebuilding New Orleans and the Lower Ninth Ward. New Orleans East, Gulfport, and Waveland are still struggling to come back—an important economic center for the country. But most certainly this coastal and industrial community around Sendai and other coastal communities are very important, not just to Japan but to the world.

I hope, with this 9.0 earthquake that hit, I hope people know this is 1,000 times worse than an 8 point on the Richter scale. It is not slightly worse; it is 1,000 times worse. This is a huge earthquake and shift in the Earth's plates—and then the subsequent tsunami.

On behalf of the people of Louisiana, we send special condolences and best wishes to the people of Japan as they recover and bury their dead, heal their injured, and begin to rebuild their cities and communities stronger than they were before. I hope we will all be as generous as we can.

One final point. This is a wake-up call to our country. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, this is a wake-up call because we have not funded adequately our disaster response fund, the DRF. We are actually about \$1.6 billion below where we should be. This is not a wise policy given what happened over the weekend. Catastrophes can strike without warning at any time. If we leave just the amount of money that is in the DRF and something like Katrina or this event were to happen, that money would be used up in 3 days. We have not replenished that fund.

I have called on the President to send a supplemental emergency bill. We can't pay for current disasters out of future preparedness money. That is what the continuing resolution in the House basically does. I strongly object to taking money we have set aside in the event that catastrophes happen to pay for past disasters. That is another reason I voted against the House concurrent resolution.

Now with the visual of this horrific tragedy unfolding in Japan, with the tsunami, the destruction of the cities, the two nuclear powerplants under extraordinary pressure, it does no good to take money out of paying for current disasters, paying for the past damage.

I have sent a letter to the President asking him to send up an emergency bill. It would be wise for us to pay for past emergencies off-budget and then to use our homeland security bill to budget as effectively and as appropriately as we can for disasters that may occur.

I am proud to say that the Democratic leadership has doubled the

amount of money we are setting aside in case these things happen. It used to be only \$800 million a year. Now we are budgeting close to 1.8 or 1.9, thinking that in the event that something happens, we want to be prepared.

In 48 States, disasters have been declared in the last 2 years, not just along the gulf coast. We have had flooding up in the Northeast. We have had flooding in the Midwest. We could potentially have—we had some flooding this weekend. I am not sure how widespread it was, but in New Jersey, there were scenes throughout the weekend about rivers overflowing as the spring approaches.

So let us, as we mourn for Japan and are in solidarity with them through this crisis, use this as a reminder to get our business straight, to get our budget straight and not mess around with our disaster relief fund. Let's pay for past disasters we owe the communities—we have pledged to help them rebuild—and set aside the appropriate money in the regular budget to take care of things that might happen this year as we advance.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. 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. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business for 20 minutes instead of 10.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. And, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after my opening statement, my colleague from Connecticut be allowed to give his statement, and then I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Connecticut and I be allowed to engage in a colloquy. And I understand the Senator from Connecticut may be using his 10 minutes. Is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCAIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

LIBYA

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today my colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, and I are preparing to submit a resolution on the situation in Libya.

Mr. President, is it allowed to send to the desk a resolution even though we are in morning business and its consideration be delayed until the appropriate time?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution will then be received and appropriately referred.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, the wording of the resolution is a sense of the Senate. It is pretty simple and straightforward. It calls for a recognition of the provisional revolutionary government in Libya, and it calls for placing as rapidly as possible a no-fly zone over Libya. It has some other language associated with it, which I would go into later on. But the fact is, what it does is urge the President of the United States to take long-overdue action to prevent the massacres that are taking place in Libya as we speak. At this moment, opponents of Colonel Qadhafi and his supporters are fighting for their very survival.

The demands of the Libyan people began much like those of their neighbors in North Africa and the Middle East—for the protection of their universal rights, for greater political freedom and representative government, for justice and opportunity. But the response of Qadhafi and those still loyal to him stands in stark contrast to the inspiring events of what some are calling the Arab spring. Qadhafi has unleashed a merciless campaign of violence against the Libyan people, including civilian noncombatants, using every tool at his disposal, from artillery barrages, to airstrikes, to the employment of foreign mercenaries. As President Bill Clinton correctly stated last week, "It is not a fair fight."

It is not a fair fight, and now the hour is growing dark. Over the past week, the momentum has increasingly shifted away from the opposition and toward Qadhafi—showing once again what a lot of us understand about warfare: that a smaller well-trained, well-equipped force can usually prevail over a larger less-trained and less-equipped force.

One by one, towns that had been liberated by the opposition are now falling to Qadhafi's forces. We are only now beginning to learn the savage cost of those losses, especially on the civilian population—the women, children, and elderly who could neither fight nor flee Qadhafi's rampage and, of course, those brave Libyan rebels, or the many suspected of aiding their cause, who face certain death or perhaps a fate worse than death. We are horrified by what we have learned already, but what we have yet to learn and what we could still witness if Qadhafi's forces are allowed to finish this unfair fight will shock and offend the conscience of the entire world.

Last week, in a hearing in the Committee on Armed Services, the Director of National Intelligence said that absent outside assistance to the opposition, "I think over the long term that the [Qadhafi] regime will prevail." And yet it is the policy of the United States, as stated by the President, that "Qaddafi must step down from power and leave." That is the right policy, but it is increasingly at odds now with the facts on the ground.

So we face a stark choice: either the President and the United States take

greater action to achieve the objectives he has laid out or we allow events to play out as they are, meaning that Qadhafi reclaims control of their country.

The resolution Senator LIEBERMAN and I are submitting calls on the President to take a number of steps immediately to reverse this impending disaster.

First, the President should recognize Libya's Transitional National Council, which is based in Benghazi but representative of communities across the country as the sole legitimate governing authority of Libya—just as the government of France has done. President Sarkozy and the French have recognized the sole legitimate government in Libya as the provisional government which is based in Benghazi.

Some continue to say we do not know who the opposition is and, thus, we cannot assist them. That is ridiculous. They have been organized for weeks. Their senior leaders consist of longstanding critics of Qadhafi as well as officials who recently broke with his regime. They even have a Web site. And they are asking—they are pleading; they are pleading—for international support.

Qadhafi has forfeited the right to power through his vicious actions. We must recognize the opposition government.

Second, the President should take immediate steps to implement a no-fly zone in Libya with international support. Not only has the Libyan opposition government called for this, the Gulf Cooperation Council has called for a no-fly zone. The head of the Organization of the Islamic Conference has called for a no-fly zone. On Saturday, the Arab League called for a no-fly zone. The French and British Governments have voiced their support and have drafted a U.N. Security Council resolution to implement a no-fly zone. It is long past time for the President of the United States to answer these calls for international leadership. The United States of America must lead.

A no-fly zone was never going to be the decisive action that tipped the balance against Qadhafi, even when Senator LIEBERMAN and I called for it nearly 3 weeks ago, but it remains the case that a no-fly zone would take one of Qadhafi's most lethal tools off the table and thereby boost the confidence of Libya's opposition. It is Libyans themselves who want to do the fighting against Qadhafi, but they want it to be a fair fight, and so should we.

Finally, the President should develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to accomplish the stated U.S. objective of Qadhafi leaving power. Beyond a no-fly zone and beyond those actions such as sanctions and humanitarian assistance that we are already taking, there are many actions we could consider, from sharing intelligence on Qadhafi's forces with the opposition, to providing them with support for command and control, to tech-

nical assistance, and even forms of security assistance if they request it—we could jam Qadhafi's communications and his television—and if we can provide it in a responsible way.

Our window of opportunity to support the Libyan people is closing quickly, and this country has a choice to make. Are we going to take action to support the people of Libya in their fight for freedom or are we going to stand by doing more than nothing but less than enough to achieve our stated goal of Qadhafi leaving power?

We all say we support the universal rights of the Arabs and Muslims in countries across the Middle East and North Africa who are inspiring us all in their quest for greater freedom, opportunity, and justice. But Libya is the real test. It is the test of whether we will provide our support not just when it is easy but when it is difficult, when it requires more of us than just speeches and expressions of solidarity. If Qadhafi is allowed to prevail in Libya and crush his opponents, it will send a signal throughout the region that force is the way to respond to peaceful demands for a better life, and it will cause all of our expressions of support for the universal rights of all people to ring far more hollow.

Before I yield to my friend from Connecticut, I would like to point out that now we have former President Clinton, we have the Arab League, we have the French, the British, other nations throughout the world, and organizations in the region and without that are saying—crying out—that we need to help these people. And when President Obama says the noose is tightening around Colonel Muammar al-Qadhafi, in fact, it is tightening around the Libyan rebels. And the way he is doing it and what he is doing to his own people are crimes against humanity.

It is time we stood up. It is time we read from the New York Times this morning an article by Anne-Marie Slaughter entitled "Fiddling While Libya Burns." It is time we read again, from Saturday, the Wall Street Journal's lead editorial entitled "The Obama Doctrine, Libya is what a world without U.S. leadership looks like."

"This is the Obama conception of the U.S. role in the world—to work through multilateral organizations and bilateral relationships to make sure that the steps we are taking are amplified."

That was by National Security Council spokesman Ben Rhodes, as quoted in the Washington Post.

"They bombed us with tanks, airplanes, missiles coming from every direction. . . . We need international support, at least a no-fly zone. Why is the world not supporting us?"

That is from Libyan rebel Mahmoud Abdel Hamid, on March 10, as quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

These people are crying out for help. They are fighting for freedom. They are fighting an unequal situation on the battlefield. The least we can do—

the very least we can do—is recognize them in their struggle for freedom and give them some assistance; otherwise, as the President's National Security Adviser stated on Friday: Qadhafi will prevail. That will send a signal throughout the world that we will have Tiananmen Squares in this world, not Tahrir Squares.

I yield to my colleague from Connecticut.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from Arizona. It is my honor to join with him in submitting this resolution. I hope in time that we will gather the support of Members on both sides of the political aisle and that we will make a statement, an urgent statement, that the Members of the U.S. Senate are ready, across party lines, to take a stand because we understand we are at a turning point in history and we cannot stand back and hope it goes in the right direction. In fact, today, as we watch events unfolding in Libya, I think we have reason to believe it is going in exactly the wrong direction.

Let me read the first two paragraphs of this resolution Senator MCCAIN and I are submitting because I think it sets what is happening in Libya in a context and also explains why we think America has a national interest in how the conflict in Libya ends.

The first paragraph of the resolution we are submitting reads:

Whereas peaceful demonstrations, inspired by similar peaceful demonstrations in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere in the Middle East, began in Libya with calls for greater political reform, opportunity, justice and the rule of law and quickly spread to cities around the country.

The second paragraph:

Whereas Muammar Qaddafi, his sons, and forces loyal to them have responded to the peaceful demonstrations by authorizing and initiating violence against civilian non-combatants in Libya, including the use of airpower, foreign mercenaries, helicopters, mortar and artillery fire, naval assets, snipers and soldiers.

I read those two paragraphs because they set exactly in context what is happening in Libya. The fact is that Libya is occurring in the context of these extraordinary, peaceful, democratic uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt that have been described—and I think correctly—as the Arab spring.

For too long, we accepted an argument that there were only two choices for the United States and most of the rest of the world in the Arab world. There was a choice between secular dictatorships that were cordial to us on one side and on the other side radical Islamist regimes that despised us and were threatening to us. We made our peace with those secular dictatorships, but it was inherently uncomfortable and inconsistent with our basic democratic values going back to the Declaration of Independence.

Beginning in Tunisia and spreading to Egypt and then to Libya and other

countries, the Arab people themselves rose up and said: No, there is a third way. And the third way is democracy. We want political freedom. We want economic opportunity. We want into the modern world. We don't want extremism of any kind.

Those revolutions, those uprisings resulted in the end of the rule of two longstanding rulers, Ben Ali in Tunisia and Mubarak in Egypt, and they happened peacefully for a lot of reasons. Part of it was that those two leaders did not order their militaries to turn on their own people, and the militaries, perhaps, in those two cases would not have done it in any case. So that is the Arab spring.

But now, in Libya, because Qadhafi has taken exactly the opposite position and turned his guns and his military power on his own people as they peacefully demonstrate for change, for universal human rights, there is a danger that what is happening in Libya is essentially a wall being put up which says: This peaceful democratic revolution in the Arab world ends here. To put it another way, the Arab spring may be going the way of the Prague spring of 1968 when the people of then-Czechoslovakia rose up and Soviet tanks and armaments suppressed their revolution. We simply cannot let that happen.

Senator MCCAIN and I were in Tunisia and Egypt a couple of weeks ago, and one of the messages we got, particularly from the young people who have been at the head of this remarkable uprising in these two countries, was: Don't stand by. Please, America, don't stand by and let Qadhafi bludgeon his own people who are asking for the same rights and opportunity and freedoms we have been asking for. If you do, it will end the movement of freedom and opportunity across the Arab world. In some sense, the Tunisians and Egyptians said to us: It may set back our own cause, even though we have been successful thus far. That is why it has been so frustrating, really infuriating, to watch as Qadhafi has moved with increasing brutality and force against his own people, pushing his opponents back, threatening to totally suppress their uprising.

I have been struck as I have watched that the world community—most of it—is spending so much time discussing and debating, and as the world discusses and debates what to do in Libya, Libya descends back into Qadhafi's darkness. We simply cannot let that happen.

The Libyan people are not asking us to come in and fight for them. The Libyan people don't want our troops on the ground. That is not what this resolution would authorize. The Libyan people want us to come to their aid in the sense of enabling them to fight Qadhafi's forces and Qadhafi to carry on as freedom fighters. They want recognition as the established and legal authority, sovereignty for their coun-

try. They would like some military assistance. They would like weapons. They would like the kind of intelligence and electronic assistance we can give, and they would like us in some way—a no-fly zone or using our capacity to fire missiles from offshore—to protect them from what has turned the tide in their struggle for freedom against Qadhafi and Libya, which is the brutal use of Libyan air power against the Libyan people. If we don't do this, I fear this Arab spring will turn to winter—a winter of darkness and suppression—again, too quickly, and the world will regret it.

People have said to Senator MCCAIN and me: What is the American national interest in getting involved in Libya? Let me just give a few reasons I think we do have an interest.

First, we have a clear national interest—a humanitarian interest—in not standing idly by and watching tens of thousands of people slaughtered by their own government. As I have said, if we stand by and do nothing, if this happens, it will be devastating to America's image in the Arab world and to our moral leadership throughout the world. Some people have argued: Why would we want to get involved in yet a third Arab or Muslim country, thinking of Iraq and Afghanistan before that. But this is more like 1990 and 1991 and the first gulf war when the Arab world itself was calling out to us: Please help us get Saddam out of Kuwait. The Arab world, as Senator MCCAIN said, is pleading with us: Help stop Qadhafi from slaughtering his own people, the blood of our brothers and sisters in Libya.

Second, we have a clear national interest in preventing Libya from becoming a failed state that al-Qaida and other Islamist groups will exploit, and that is precisely what will happen if this becomes a bloody and protracted civil war and then descends into chaos.

Third, if Qadhafi is able to defeat this uprising, it will send a message, as Senator MCCAIN has said, to every dictator in the world that the way to stop peaceful democratic protest is through brutal violence.

Fourth, I don't mean this quote literally, but remember the old phrase from earlier times in history: If you go after the king, make sure you eliminate him. Don't leave him wounded. If Qadhafi survives this, he is going to cause no end of trouble for the United States and anyone else in the world who stood with the freedom fighters. So let's not think we can stand idly by and that we will not pay ourselves the consequences of Qadhafi surviving.

Finally, there is a relationship between what is happening in Libya today and the instability it has caused throughout that region of the world and the skyrocketing price of gasoline at the pump that does concern the American people every day. In fact, with all that has been discussed, I think the best we can do to stabilize the price of gasoline in America is to

stabilize Libya and to enable the Libyan opposition to Qadhafi to fight the fair fight they want to fight.

So that is the intention of this resolution. It is, as the French would say, a "cris de coeur." It is a cry from our hearts because I fear we have let so much time go by that it may be impossible to enable the freedom fighters in Libya to wage a fair fight.

I hope their cause is not lost because it is our cause, and the least we can do is help them fight for that cause against the man who has suppressed that cause under his rule.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask my friend from Connecticut if we couldn't review a few of the facts as they are now. Despite the fact that the President made a statement that I am still bewildered by—I believe it was Saturday or Friday when the President said the noose is tightening around Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

I think the facts on the ground indicate that with superior firepower, the ability to strike from the air, even if those strikes are not particularly effective—although, apparently, they are becoming more effective—and well-trained and well-equipped small forces, Colonel Qadhafi has been able to reverse the tide on the battlefield rather dramatically. All of the news reports are that the military situation on the ground has shifted dramatically in favor of Qadhafi's forces.

General Clapper, our Director of National Intelligence, said on Thursday that Qadhafi is likely to win in the long term. Then, on the other side of the coin, the President of the United States has said Qadhafi must go.

So I guess my first question to my colleague is—as the Wall Street Journal says, if Qadhafi survives, after Mr. Obama has told him to go, the blow to U.S. prestige and world order would be enormous. Dictators will learn that the way to keep America from acting is to keep its diplomats and citizens around while mowing down your opponents as the world debates contingency. By the time the babblers make a decision, it will be too late. This is a dangerous message to send at any time but especially with the Middle East in the throes of revolution.

American prestige is now on the line. The battlefield situation is that the tide is obviously against the prodemocracy forces. Wouldn't the message be sent to any dictator in any region of the world that rather than accept a situation such as happened in Egypt and Tunisia, send in the tanks, send in the military, slaughter people without consequence? Is that the lesson we would be sending, I ask my friend from Connecticut?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from Arizona. I fear that is exactly the message we would be sending if the United States and our allies stand back and let Qadhafi, through the force of his arms, suppress political dissent from his own people.

One of the inspiring qualities to the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt was that they were peaceful. Incidentally, they were not anti-American. They were pro-Tunisia, pro-Egypt. The people of Tunisia and Egypt were pleading for a better life. So the model there and one of the most powerful examples of peaceful protests, which is part of American history, was established. It changed those two governments, Tunisia and Egypt.

Now we have another model being set; that is, when your people rise up and peacefully protest, you don't respond, you don't negotiate, you don't listen to them, you don't react. You turn your firepower on them. You kill them wantonly, and you keep doing that until that dissent ends. One, in a world that is increasingly dangerous, that is a terrible message to send.

Two, in a world in which—well, let's just go back a little bit to what were false choices in the Arab world. But in the uprisings in Tunisia and in Egypt, there has been expressed the strongest possible repudiation of al-Qaida on the one hand, and Iran on the other—that is the Government of Iran—both of which have followed an Islamist extremist ideology and used violence to achieve their ends.

So we have the Tunisia-Egypt model of peaceful protest, democracy, economic opportunity, and now we have the other model of Qadhafi, which is violence, which will beget more violence and will cost us dearly.

I say to my friend from Arizona, as we say in our resolution, President Obama has made clear that he believes Qadhafi must go. If, after that clear statement of American policy by our Commander in Chief, Qadhafi does not go, and it is seen not just in the Arab world but throughout the wider world that the United States was not able to mobilize action in the world community to make sure Qadhafi went, but in fact he stayed, it inevitably has an effect on the credibility of American leadership in the world.

None of us want that to happen, including President Obama. So it is not too late. The actions we have taken, significant as they are—sanctions on Qadhafi and some people close to him, the threat or the plan to refer others close to him to the International Court of Justice—all are important. But, unfortunately, what is more important now is what is happening on the ground in Libya. On the ground in Libya, the power of the forces of Qadhafi are winning in a fight that is not fair.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I say to my friend that I think that is a strong and eloquent statement. I admit to the fact that the terrible tragedy that has transpired in Japan is one that has riveted the attention of our Nation and the world. Our hearts go out to the Japanese people and their government in this terrible time of trial. There is no way we can diminish the tragedy they are experiencing. But it is a natural disaster that was the catalyst for that terrible situation.

Meanwhile, in Libya, we have a human catalyst named Muammar Qadhafi. I admit and I will confess to having such a dull life that I watch a lot of cable television. I see expert after expert come before the cameras and give us reasons the United States should do nothing.

I commend to my colleagues for reading an article in today's New York Times by Anne-Marie Slaughter, formerly in policy planning at the State Department, as I understand it, in this administration or in another. It does respond to what we will hear continuously. The article is entitled "Fiddling While Libya Burns."

At the beginning, she points out that the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and now the Arab League have all called for imposing a no-fly zone. She runs through the objections raised by various individuals and "experts." One part is entitled "It's Not In Our Interest." One is entitled "It Will Be Counterproductive." Another is "It Won't Work." Another is "If It Does Work, We Don't Know What We Will Get." The last is "Let's Arm The Rebels Instead."

It addresses most of the main arguments. The only one I think should be added to this list is the likelihood that things are happening in Libya today, as we speak, that will remind us that several times in the last century—and even in this one—we said never again. We said never again after Srebrenica, after Rwanda, after the Holocaust, and on several other occasions when nations stood by while slaughter was taking place.

Is there anyone who believes that Qadhafi has not practiced in the past, is practicing now, and will practice in the future unspeakable cruelties which will be inflicted upon his people who dare to stand up to him? So I say to my friend: Here we are.

We know what happened in Tripoli and what happened with air attacks that are taking place on defenseless individuals. We watch these brave young people go out there with the Kalashnikovs and other things and fight against the tanks and air power. As former President Clinton said so eloquently: It is not a fair fight. It is not a fair fight.

I guess there will be other consultations with our allies that we will undertake. I am glad to see that the Secretary of State is meeting with the leadership of the provisional government. I hope she will, as a result of that meeting, ask for the U.S. recognition of that organization as the legitimate government of the country of Libya. I hope all these things will happen. But, meanwhile, events are unfolding on the ground every second and minute, and the longer we wait to act, more Libyans will die. This is a preventable situation.

The events in Japan, we can argue, were not preventable. It was an act of God. What is happening in Libya is an

act of a brutal tyrant and sadist who is willing to butcher his own people. We are doing everything we can, and we will do everything we can to help the people of Japan. We ought to be doing what we can to keep the people of Libya from a fate that, in some cases, to some individuals, may be worse than death.

I hope the majority leader will allow a vote on this sense-of-the-Senate resolution as soon as possible. I understand there will be those who may like to see slightly different language. We would be glad to change the language somewhat, but we will not change the message. The message is that the United States of America—the Senate of the United States is standing on the side of people who are standing up for freedom and democracy, a universal value that we treasure. We will not stint in our obligations. Those who say the most powerful Nation in the world is incapable of helping these people by installing a no-fly zone, I think that is not substantiated by the facts.

GEN Raymond Odierno said the other day that we could install a no-fly zone in just a few days. We could have naval power offshore that could enforce it in a variety of ways, from the sea as well as from the air. Also, it is very clear to me that if Libyan pilots are told if they fly they are going to die, a lot of them would not fly.

I don't want to focus so much attention on the no-fly zone as I do on what is happening to the people of Libya as we speak and the repercussions that could take place throughout the globe. I hope we can vote on this sooner rather than later. I ask my friend from Connecticut—I believe we are nearly out of time.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I just want to conclude by saying this: In our history in this country we have, again, been quite fortunate, and it may be that—as a friend of mine said to me, it is hard for people to imagine themselves in a position where they would need to be rescued from danger, from death. Senator McCAIN cited some of the episodes, dark times in recent history, where people needed that help from outside—the Holocaust, Srebrenica, the Balkans, Rwanda. We acted. This is of that same type.

But when we think about Japan, there is this parallel to the United States. There have been natural disasters in this country—earthquakes, hurricanes. Katrina is an example. When the people of the gulf coast region pleaded with us, the central government, the National Government, the Federal Government, for help, we gave it to them. I will never forget what the Coast Guard did in rescuing lives on the gulf coast after Katrina. In some ways I think we have to perhaps see it as a manmade disaster, as a natural disaster. It is a basic rescue. In this case they are not asking us to fight their fight. They are asking us to leave them the weapons, the cover, so that they can fight their fight. That is the

intention of this resolution—bottom line—to recognize the opposition to Qadhafi in Benghazi as the government and legitimate suffering government of Libya, and then work with our allies in the world community, including not only our NATO allies but in the Arab League and the Gulf Council to protect the Libyan people from Qadhafi's air force.

I join with Senator MCCAIN in saying that I hope Senators REID and MCCONNELL can agree on a way to bring forth this resolution quickly. Every moment that passes without us helping the Libyan opposition to make it a fair fight is a moment in which darkness descends over Libya.

Again, Senator MCCAIN said we are willing to discuss changes to the resolution because we would like this to be a resolution that has the broadest possible bipartisan support in the Senate.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Wall Street Journal editorial entitled "The Obama Doctrine," the New York Times article, "Fiddling While Libya Burns," and, from the Daily Beast, an interview with the Libyan resistance leader, entitled "Rebel Leader: Give Us A Chance," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 13, 2011]

FIDDLING WHILE LIBYA BURNS

(By Anne-Marie Slaughter)

President Obama says the noose is tightening around Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. In fact, it is tightening around the Libyan rebels, as Colonel Qaddafi makes the most of the world's dithering and steadily retakes rebel-held towns. The United States and Europe are temporizing on a no-flight zone while the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council and now the Arab League have all called on the United Nations Security Council to authorize one. Opponents of a no-flight zone have put forth five main arguments, none of which, on close examination, hold up.

IT'S NOT IN OUR INTEREST

Gen. Wesley K. Clark argues that "Libya doesn't sell much oil to the United States" and that while Americans "want to support democratic movements in the region," we are already doing that in Iraq and Afghanistan. Framing this issue in terms of oil is exactly what Arab populations and indeed much of the world expect, which is why they are so cynical about our professions of support for democracy and human rights. Now we have a chance to support a real new beginning in the Muslim world—a new beginning of accountable governments that can provide services and opportunities for their citizens in ways that could dramatically decrease support for terrorist groups and violent extremism. It's hard to imagine something more in our strategic interest.

IT WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

Many thoughtful commentators, including Al Jazeera's director general, Wadah Khanfar, argue that what is most important about the Arab spring is that it is coming from Arabs themselves. From this perspective, Western military intervention will play right into Colonel Qaddafi's hands, allowing him to broadcast pictures of Western bombs falling on Arab civilians. But these argu-

ments, while important, must be weighed against the appeals of Libyan opposition fighters for international help, and now, astonishingly, against support for a no-flight zone by some of the same governments that have kept their populations quiescent by holding up the specter of foreign intervention. Assuming that a no-flight zone can be imposed by an international coalition that includes Arab states, we have an opportunity to establish a new narrative of Western support for Arab democrats.

IT WON'T WORK

The United States ambassador to NATO, Ivo H. Daalder, argues that stopping Colonel Qaddafi's air force will not be decisive; he will continue to inflict damage with tanks and helicopters, bombing oil refineries and depots on his way to retaking key towns. But the potential effect of a no-flight zone must also be assessed in terms of Colonel Qaddafi's own calculations about his future. Richard Downie of the Center for Strategic and International Studies argues that although Colonel Qaddafi cultivates a mad-dictator image, he has been a canny survivor and political manipulator for 40 years. He is aware of debates with regard to a no-flight zone and is timing his military campaign accordingly; he is also capable of using his air force just enough to gain strategic advantage, but not enough to trigger a no-flight zone. If the international community lines up against him and is willing to crater his runways and take out his anti-aircraft weapons, he might well renew his offer of a negotiated departure.

IF IT DOES WORK, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WILL GET

Revolutions are almost always followed by internal divisions among the revolutionaries. We should not expect a rosy, Jeffersonian Libya. But the choice is between uncertainty and the certainty that if Colonel Qaddafi wins, regimes across the region will conclude that force is the way to answer protests. And when Colonel Qaddafi massacres the opposition, young protesters across the Middle East will conclude that when we were asked to support their cause with more than words, we blinked. Americans in turn will read the words of Mr. Obama's June 2009 speech in Cairo, with its lofty promises to stand for universal human rights, and cringe.

LET'S ARM THE REBELS INSTEAD

Some commentators who agree with the analysis above say we could better accomplish our goals by providing intelligence and arms to the opposition. That would, of course, be much easier for us. It undoubtedly appeals to Mr. Obama as a neat compromise between the desire to help the protesters and the desire not to overrule his defense secretary's reluctance to participate in a no-flight zone. However, we would be providing arms not to a disciplined military, but to ragged groups of brave volunteers who barely know how to use the weapons they have. They need action that will change the situation on the ground for Colonel Qaddafi, as well as his calculations. Moreover, by the time arms and intelligence could take effect, it is quite likely that Colonel Qaddafi will have retaken or at least besieged Benghazi, the opposition stronghold.

The United States should immediately ask the Security Council to authorize a no-flight zone and make clear to Russia and China that if they block the resolution, the blood of the Libyan opposition will be on their hands. We should push them at least to abstain, and bring the issue to a vote as soon as possible. If we get a resolution, we should work with the Arab League to assemble an international coalition to impose the no-flight zone. If the Security Council fails to

act, then we should recognize the opposition Libyan National Council as the legitimate government, as France has done, and work with the Arab League to give the council any assistance it requests.

Any use of force must be carefully and fully debated, but that debate has now been had. It's been raging for a week, during which almost every Arab country has come on board calling for a no-flight zone and Colonel Qaddafi continues to gain ground. It is time to act.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 12, 2011]

THE OBAMA DOCTRINE

Libya is what a world without U.S. leadership looks like.

"This is the Obama conception of the U.S. role in the world—to work through multilateral organizations and bilateral relationships to make sure that the steps we are taking are amplified."

—White House National Security Council spokesman Ben Rhodes, March 10, 2011, as quoted in the Washington Post

"They bombed us with tanks, airplanes, missiles coming from every direction. . . . We need international support, at least a no-fly zone. Why is the world not supporting us?"

—Libyan rebel Mahmoud Abdel Hamid, March 10, 2011, as quoted in The Wall Street Journal

* * *

Whatever else one might say about President Obama's Libya policy, it has succeeded brilliantly in achieving its oft-stated goal of not leading the world. No one can any longer doubt the U.S. determination not to act before the Italians do, or until the Saudis approve, or without a U.N. resolution. This White House is forthright for followership.

That message also couldn't be clearer to Moammar Gadhafi and his sons, who are busy bombing and killing their way to victory against the Libyan opposition. As the U.S. defers to the world, the world can't decide what to do, and the vacuum is filled by a dictator and his hard men who have concluded that no one will stop them. "Hear it now. I have only two words for our brothers and sisters in the east: We're coming," said Gadhafi's son, Saif al-Islam, on Thursday.

Three weeks into the Libyan uprising, here are some of the live action highlights from what Mr. Obama likes to call "the international community":

The United Nations Security Council has imposed an arms embargo, but with enough ambiguity that no one knows whether it applies only to Gadhafi or also to the opposition. Even the U.S. State Department and White House don't agree.

The U.N. has referred events to the International Criminal Court for a war crimes investigation. Mr. Obama said yesterday this sent a message to Gadhafi that "the world is watching," as if Gadhafi didn't know. But it also sends a message that leaving Libya without bloodshed is not an option, because he and his sons will still be pursued for war crimes. Had Reagan pursued this strategy in the Philippines, Marcos might never have gone into exile.

France has recognized the opposition National Council in Benghazi, though the U.S. is only now sending envoys to meet with the opposition for the first time. Dozens of Western reporters can get rebel leaders on the phone, an opposition delegation has visited French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris, but the U.S. is still trying to figure out who these people are. The American envoys better hurry because the rebels may soon be dead.

The French want a no-fly zone, but the Italians and Germans object. NATO is having

"a series of conversations about a wide range of options," as President Obama put it yesterday, but NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen emerged from a meeting of defense ministers in Brussels on Thursday saying that "We considered . . . initial options regarding a possible no-fly zone in case NATO were to receive a clear U.N. mandate" (our emphasis). The latter isn't likely because both China and Russia object, but no doubt NATO will keep conversing about the "range of options" next week.

Even as opposition leaders were asking for help, U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told the world on Thursday that Gadhafi is likely to win in the long-term. The Administration scrambled to say this was merely a factual judgment about the balance of military power, but the message couldn't be clearer to any of Gadhafi's generals who might consider defecting: Do so at your peril because you will join the losing side.

We could go on, but you get the idea. When the U.S. fails to lead, the world reverts to its default mode as a diplomatic Tower of Babel. Everyone discusses "options" and "contingencies" but no one has the will to act, while the predators march.

This was true in Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s until the U.S. shamed Europe and NATO into using force with or without a U.N. resolution. And it has been true in every case in which the world finally resisted tyrants or terrorists, from the Gulf War to Afghanistan to Iraq. When the U.S. chooses to act like everyone else, the result is Rwanda, Darfur and now Libya.

* * *

One difference in Libya is that the damage from a Gadhafi victory would not merely be humanitarian, though that would be awful enough. The only way Gadhafi can subdue Benghazi and the east now is with a door-to-door purge and systematic murder. The flow of refugees heading for Southern Europe would also not be small.

If Gadhafi survives after Mr. Obama has told him to go, the blow to U.S. prestige and world order would be enormous. Dictators will learn that the way to keep America from acting is to keep its diplomats and citizens around, while mowing down your opponents as the world debates contingencies. By the time the Babelers make a decision, it will be too late. This is a dangerous message to send at any time, but especially with a Middle East in the throes of revolution.

There is still time for Mr. Obama to salvage his Libya policy, though the costs of doing so are rising every day. Libya today is what a world without U.S. leadership looks like.

[From the DailyBeast.com, Mar. 14, 2011]

REBEL LEADER: GIVE US A CHANCE

With the Libyan resistance in retreat, opposition leader Mustafa Abdul Jalil tells The Daily Beast's Fadel Lamien that his side needs a no-fly zone and a naval blockade to create a fair fight.

Muammar Gaddafi gave an official face to his diffused opposition on Thursday by placing a \$400,000 bounty on the head of Mustafa Abdul Jalil, Gaddafi's former justice minister who has now emerged as leader of Libyan National Transitional Council. And ever since, the dictator's forces have seemingly been trying to collect, overtaking city after city in the past few days, putting the rebels in full retreat.

The resistance's only hope seems to be some kind of intervention—most critically a no-fly zone, which the Arab League endorsed Saturday. That issue is expected to be taken up at the United Nations imminently, and Hillary Clinton is also flying east this week to meet with Jalil and other rebel leaders.

With that as a backdrop, The Daily Beast secured an exclusive interview with Jalil this weekend. He thanked the Arab League for their vote, terming it "a first and important step and a basis for an international decision." Regarding Gaddafi's issuance of the \$400,000 bounty against him (in doing so, the dictator labeled him an agent of the Italians, the British, and Libya's deposed royal family), Jalil refused to return the favor, saying only that "he has no place in Libya anymore, if he leaves now we will not pursue him . . . the council and the Libyan people have no choice but to fight Gaddafi till the end."

Jalil also touched base on the battlefield map, the makeup of the opposition, and the role of al Qaeda:

We have heard conflicting messages about international intervention, and whether the Libyan rebels want outside help or not. What is it that you want from the rest of the world?

We want a no-fly zone, and a naval blockade. Gaddafi has been using his air force and navy to destroy the country and all the cities. All we want is to have the international community level the playing field. We don't want boots on the ground. We can fight to liberate our own country with our own blood and that will be our honor.

We need the international community to recognize our council as the sole representative of the Libyan people. No Libyan so far disputed the legitimacy of the council except Gaddafi and whatever is left of this regime.

We need humanitarian help, like food and medicine. The lack of international decisiveness is sending Gaddafi and his gang the wrong message, it emboldened him and makes him feel free to commit more war crimes against the Libyan people.

We expect tough and hard days as the world saw what Gaddafi did in Zawiya and how he bombed the oil installations in Ras Lanouf. Gaddafi will use anything to stay in power and the Libyan people made the decision that he must go and genocide will be committed if the world community doesn't get its act together and help us.

Gaddafi's forces are clearly on the offensive, with the rebels in retreat. How do you evaluate the military situation right now?

What we see is not a war between two armies, but revolutionaries trying to free their country. They started peacefully but were attacked with violence and bullets, anti-aircraft machine-guns, and rockets and of course mercenaries. They are defending themselves and trying to free the rest of the country that is held hostage under Gaddafi.

The balance of power in the battlefield is not equal, but the sheer will of the Libyan people to rid the country of Gaddafi's regime, which like a cancer, requires sacrifice and blood like any other major surgery. We will prevail.

What about al Qaeda in Libya? Gaddafi blames the uprising on al Qaeda and there were several reports mentioning some kind of al Qaeda presence in Libya.

There is no al Qaeda in Libya. Gaddafi is using this as a scare tactic to create fear and distrust between us the international community, but the world learned a long time ago not to trust or believe Gaddafi. There is no place for al Qaeda in Libya, now or in the future. The Libyan people are moderate Muslims and do not subscribe to these extremist ideologies. Libya is and will be a moderate Muslim country where democracy and rule of law will be supreme.

The Libyan people suffered so much for over 41 years from Gaddafi's extremist ideology and will not replace it with anything but democracy and the rule of law. Libya is part of the Mediterranean basin and has a rich history and will always be a source of

moderation and stability. We will respect all international laws and cooperate with the world community and bring the respect and trust that Libya enjoyed with the rest of the world before Gaddafi's 41 years of darkness.

There have been many reports in the Western press about the lack of a central opposition. How did you come up with the council and does it represent the Libyan people?

The council derives its legitimacy from the local councils that were organized by the local revolutionaries in every village and city, political councils organized to administer the local people's affairs like providing services, food, law and order.

Each locality nominated representatives to be members in the National Transitional Council, according to their population ratio of the total Libyan population. The main role of the council is to represent the interest of the Libyan people locally and internationally. Members of the council were chosen with no regard to the political views or leaning.

How long will this council last?

The role will end with the end of Gaddafi's regime. A transitional government will be formed around the members of the crisis team, of whom we named only two of its members: Ambassador Ali Issawi and Omar al-Hariri, head of the military affairs. The council withheld names of members in other cities like Zawiya, Nalot, Musrata, Zentan, Zawara, Tripoli, Jado.

Given the unwieldy nature of such an organization, what's your decision-making mechanism?

We use wide consultations within and outside the council, we debate and discuss and try to reach consciences as we keep our goals. We don't suffer from any real disagreements or conflict within the council. We have developed several committees and teams to deal with legal, political, social, humanitarian, defense, oil, economy that we hope to become the seeds for the transitional government.

Should you prevail, what's your vision of the new Libya?

We are striving for a new democratic, civil Libya, led by democratic and civil government that focuses on economic development, building civil society and civil institutions and a multi-party system. A Libya that respects all international agreements, is good to its neighbors, stands against terrorism, with respect for all religions and ethnicities.

How would you the transition to a democratic Libya?

We will be seeking a smooth peaceful transition, with a drafting of a new constitution that will lead the country to a free and fair legislative and parliamentary elections as well as presidential election. No member of the transitional council will have the right to run for any of these elections. There will be peaceful conference of governance according to elections, under the observation of the international organizations.

TRAGEDY IN JAPAN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I want to take a minute to say what came to my mind over the weekend about Japan. Prime Minister Kan of Japan described this earthquake and tsunami as the worst thing to happen to Japan since World War II.

I suppose what struck me and struck probably a lot of other Americans was, of course, Japan and the United States were at war with each other in World War II. Today, the U.S.-Japanese relationship is extremely close. I believe

we don't have a better, more steadfast ally in Asia than the Japanese people. It is part of why I hope the people of Japan understand that the people of the United States are with them at this moment in which they suffer so from this natural disaster, and we will do everything we can to help them.

They are a proud people, but now they can't handle this all alone. We want to help them. We are a proud people. I want to share with my colleagues a conversation I had with the gentleman who was serving in the American Embassy in Tokyo at the time of Hurricane Katrina. He told me yesterday the Japanese people lined up outside our embassy in Tokyo after they heard about, watched films of Hurricane Katrina, to offer help, whatever they could offer. One private citizen of Japan, unannounced, arrived at the embassy and wrote out a private check for \$1 million for Hurricane Katrina relief. This is the closeness of the relationship.

I hope and I am confident we will be as supportive of the Japanese people as they respond to this earthquake and tsunami and rebuild as they were to the people of the gulf coast in America in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as the Senator from Arizona and the Senator from Connecticut have done eloquently in their ways, I wish to express on behalf of the people of Tennessee to the people of Japan our sympathy for the devastation they have experienced.

I applaud the administration and the American people for their immediate response to offer assistance, charitable aid, and search and rescue teams to find survivors. There is no more important two-country alliance than that of Japan and the United States. The former Ambassador Mike Mansfield used to teach that to all of us younger Governors during the eighties and nineties. We will stand with the people of Japan until they recover from this disaster.

There is a special relationship between the Japanese and Tennesseans because of the location of so many Japanese industries in our State over the last 30 years. As a result, Tennesseans have been reaching out to our friends and their families in Japan.

We should also commend the Japanese for their courage they have shown in dealing with the devastation and in particular with their level-headed response to the damage at their nuclear reactors at Fukushima Daiichi. In this age when instant communication can sometimes create misinformation and even panic, the Japanese leadership and nuclear scientists are working with organizations from around the world in responding to the danger and keeping the rest of the world informed.

This is the largest earthquake in Japan's recorded history—30 times more

forceful than the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and 700 times stronger than the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. While the risk is by no means over and the events in Japan continue to evolve, the reactor safety systems so far appear to have done their job in withstanding the earthquake, tsunami, power loss, and explosions, and no other reactor containment structures seem to have been breached in these worst-case situations. The lessons that America can take away from this tragedy are this: Learn all we can from the Japanese experience to make the operation of American reactors as safe as possible.

Since the 1950s, the U.S. Navy has safely traveled more than 136 million miles on nuclear power. Today, 104 civilian reactors produce 20 percent of America's electricity and 70 percent of our clean electricity. That is without sulfur, without nitrogen, without mercury, or without carbon. No one has ever died from a nuclear accident at any of our commercial or Navy reactors.

Let me say that again. No one has ever died from a reactor accident at one of our Navy or commercial reactors.

Without nuclear power, it is hard to imagine how the United States could produce enough cheap, reliable, clean electricity to keep our economy moving and keep our jobs from going overseas.

Here is what we know about what has happened in Japan. We have all seen the video of the explosion of the building at Daiichi unit 1, now unit 3. I am sure many of us have thought those were reactors exploding. Fortunately, that is not what happened. A buildup of hydrogen gas in the secondary containment structures led to explosions which destroyed the buildings themselves but the primary containment structures inside appear not to have been compromised. To reduce the resulting increase in containment pressure, a relatively small amount of radioactive vapor has been dispersed into the atmosphere.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company has told us that the highest level of radiation detected onsite to date is 155.7 millirem per hour, and that has since been reduced to 4.4 millirem per hour. But what does that mean in regard to human exposure risk? To help put that in perspective, here are a couple of facts. The average American receives about 300 millirem of radiation exposure each year from naturally occurring sources, such as the Sun, and another 300 millirem of radiation exposure from medical applications, such as CT scans and x rays.

What did happen after the earthquake is that the ensuing tsunami crippled the backup electrical generators and batteries needed to keep cooling water circulating in the plants after they had been safely shut down. This ultimately led to use of the last line of defense emergency core cooling sys-

tem—flooding the entire containment vessel with seawater. While this pretty much assures that the reactors will not ever be used again, as long as the seawater continues to be pumped in, the possibilities of further damage ought to be halted.

People have been evacuated and authorities are taking every precaution, and that, of course, is what we wish to see. Despite one of the largest earthquakes in the world's history, with accompanying tsunamis, fires, and aftershocks—multiple disasters compounded one on top of the other—the primary containment at reactors near the epicenter appears not to have been breached and the radioactive venting appears to have been controlled and minimal.

This experience has brought back memories of the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania. Although we remember Three Mile Island as the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history, it is also important to remember that no one was hurt at Three Mile Island. As I said before, there has never been a death resulting from a commercial nuclear accident in American history. What happened at Three Mile Island was basically an operator failure. A valve failed, and when the automatic safety mechanism kicked in, the operators overrode it because they became confused by the number of alarms.

Three Mile Island completely changed the American nuclear industry. The Kemeny Commission, appointed by President Carter, analyzed the problems and made many recommendations, almost all of which have been put into practice. The valve that started the whole thing had failed nine times, but the manufacturer tried to keep it a secret. People in the nuclear industry then did not talk to each other. Now safety is a top priority of the nuclear industry. The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations collectively shares best practices to achieve the highest levels of safety, as well as reliability. Nuclear operators train for 5 years before they can take over in the control room. They spend 1 week out of every 5 to 6 weeks in a simulator honing their skills. The nuclear companies have special emergency teams that can be dispatched anywhere in the country at a moment's notice. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector practically lives onsite. What is more, every reactor in the country is on the hook for \$112 million if something goes wrong at another reactor. As one can imagine, they watch each other very carefully.

I have talked with any number of Navy veterans who had experience with nuclear commands. One reason I am confident there have not been any nuclear reactor accidents in the nuclear Navy that killed anyone over the last half century is because the responsibility for the safety of that reactor goes right up to the captain of the vessel.

It was not the same at Chernobyl, the infamous 1986 Soviet accident.

Chernobyl involved 60 immediate deaths and radiation exposures that, according to the World Health Organization, may eventually result in 4,000 cancers. But Chernobyl was a completely different kind of accident and the result of different technology.

More than that, the Soviets had not built a containment structure at Chernobyl. The containment structures at these Japanese reactors—40 to 80 inches thick concrete and steel—appear, as we speak this afternoon, to have withstood an 8.9 magnitude earthquake, tsunami, power failure, and explosion.

There are gas and oil fires raging in Japan. Water and sewer systems are damaged. The possibility of disease and starvation is imminent. There are a great many things to worry about in addition to the problems with the Japanese reactors. There are tens of thousands of people still unaccounted for. Right now, the effort needs to be helping those who need help, containing further damage and risk, and getting Japan back up and running again. Then we can take the lessons learned from this earthquake and tsunami and apply them to make our nuclear plants as safe as possible and help the world do the same.

America's 104 nuclear reactors provide, as I mentioned earlier, 20 percent of our electricity, 70 percent of our clean electricity. Japan has 54 reactors and gets 30 percent of its electricity from nuclear. France gets 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power. The United States invented nuclear power, but the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not issued a construction license for a new reactor in more than 30 years. There are 65 reactors under construction around the world. However, only one of those 65 is in the United States, and that is the construction of a previously halted project by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Japanese and the French have surged into the lead in terms of nuclear power and are now being challenged by Korea and Russia on the international market. China, with 27 nuclear reactors currently under construction, will soon join them all.

Nuclear power today provides about 15 percent of the world's electricity. While there are always risks with every form of energy, it is important that we be clear about the risks each type of energy poses. But it is also important to remember that we do not abandon highway systems because bridges and overpasses collapse during earthquakes. The 1.6 million of us who fly daily would not stop flying after a tragic airplane crash. We cannot stop drilling after a tragic oilspill unless we want to rely more on foreign oil, run up our prices, turn our oil drilling over to a few big oil companies and all our oil hauling over to more leaky tankers. Mr. President, 34,000 people die in motor vehicle accidents every year, but we do not stop driving because we have to get our children to school and our-

selves to work. In all of these cases, when there are accidents, we do our best to examine the tragedies and make our continued operation and our lives as safe as possible. That is what we need to do here.

Our reactors in the United States are built to the highest standards in the world. The Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a press briefing today:

Right now we believe that the nuclear powerplants in this country operate safely and securely.

The Chairman said:

Nuclear powerplants in the United States are designed to very high standards for earthquake effects. All our plants are designed to withstand significant natural phenomena, like earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis. We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the safety and security of nuclear powerplants in the country. But right now, we believe we have a very strong program in place.

"As we get more information from Japan," said the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "as this immediate crisis ultimately comes to an end, we will look at whatever information we can gain from this event and see if there are any changes we need to make in our system."

The Deputy Secretary of Energy said: Nuclear power has been a critical component of the United States energy portfolio.

The White House press secretary, on behalf of President Obama, said:

Nuclear power remains a part of the President's overall energy plan.

Despite the fact that there has never been a death as a result of the operation of a commercial American reactor or in our nuclear Navy, which has been using reactors in its ships and submarines since the 1950s, our goal should be to continue every effort to try to make certain the operation of our existing and new nuclear powerplants are as safe as possible.

For example, some have suggested that so-called passive cooling systems that operate on natural convection could prevent the problems that arose in Japan when the backup power to pump water was lost.

Nuclear power is a demanding but manageable technology. As we move forward, let us learn the proper lessons from this Japanese experience to make sure that in the United States and in the world, we are even better prepared for the unexpected events of the future.

I thank the Chair, 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JAMES EMANUEL BOASBERG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Emanuel Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled between the two leaders and their designees.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 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. LEAHY. 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will finally consider a judicial nomination I have been talking about since last year. Judge Boasberg is one of four nominees to the vacancies that have plagued the district court for the District of Columbia, this Nation's Capital for some time. This is another of the nominations that could—and in my view should—have been considered and confirmed last year. Instead, it was unnecessarily returned to the President without final Senate action despite the nominee's qualifications and the needs of the American people to have judges available to hear cases in the Federal courts. The President has had to renominate Judge Boasberg, the Senate Judiciary Committee has had to reconsider him and now, finally, the Senate is being allowed to consider him.

I suspect the Senate will now confirm him unanimously or nearly so. Judge Boasberg has outstanding credentials. He was appointed to be a judge in DC by President George W. Bush in 2002. He has a wealth of experience, having presided over approximately 500 cases. He is a former assistant U.S. attorney, and received the highest peer review rating of well qualified from the Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary of the American Bar Association.

Yet as we proceed with this nomination, Senate Republicans have objected to proceeding to the nomination of Amy Jackson. Both Judge Boasberg and Ms. Jackson were reported without opposition by the Judiciary Committee last year and, again, earlier this year. I have spoken about the vacancies in the District of Columbia on numerous occasions, including as recently as last week. I noted the criticism from Chief

Judge Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Chief Judge Lamberth wrote to Senate leaders last November urging action by the Senate to fill the vacancies that exist on the district court for the District of Columbia. We could and should have acted on both these nominations last year in response to that request. They were reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee last year. These two judicial nominees to fill longstanding vacancies have been waiting too long for final consideration by the Senate.

While I am glad we are ending the wait for Judge Boasberg, the refusal to proceed on the Jackson nomination is just another example of the needless delays on considering outstanding nominees. Ms. Jackson is a former assistant U.S. attorney with outstanding credentials and experience. She, too, received the Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary of the American Bar Association's highest peer review rating of well qualified. Representative NORTON has called her one of the top practitioners in one of the District's top law firms, and has strongly endorsed her nomination.

In addition to Judge Boasberg, there are still 10 judicial nominees left waiting for Senate consideration having been reviewed by the Judiciary Committee: nominees to fill two judicial emergency vacancies in New York, a judicial emergency vacancy on the Second Circuit, a judicial emergency vacancy in California and vacancies on the Federal and DC Circuit, a vacancy in Oregon, and two vacancies in Virginia. They should be debated and confirmed without delay as well. I urge the Senate leadership to proceed to debate and vote on them before the upcoming recess. We should be working to clear the calendar before the recess and not unnecessarily extend these vacancies. That is what a return to regular order entails.

The Judiciary Committee is holding hearings every 2 weeks and we hope finally to begin to bend the curve and start to lower judicial vacancies across the country. We can do that if the Senate continues to consider judicial nominations in regular order as they are reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Federal judicial vacancies around the country still number too many, and they have persisted for too long. That is why Chief Justice Roberts, Attorney General Holder, White House Counsel Bob Bauer and many others—including the President of the United States—have spoken out and urged the Senate to act.

Nearly one out of every nine Federal judgeships remains vacant. This puts at serious risk the ability of all Americans to have a fair hearing in court. The real price being paid for these unnecessary delays is that the judges that remain are overburdened and the American people who depend on them are being denied hearings and justice in

a timely fashion. When Chief Judge Lamberth wrote to Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL last November, he noted that Senate action to fill the vacancies in DC was needed so that “the citizens of the District of Columbia and the Federal Government and other litigants” who rely on the Court could receive “the high quality of justice they deserve.” The Chief Judge wrote about the “severe impact” these judicial vacancies were having and observed that the “challenging caseload” of the court “includes many involving national security issues, as well as other issues of national significance.”

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Chief Judge's letter be printed in the record at the end of my statement.

I also ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement recent articles from the Palm Beach Post and the Associated Press about the delays in judicial confirmation and some additional examples of difficulties being caused. The Florida paper reports on the crisis in south Florida and the watch list for Federal courts with high caseloads and high vacancies. The Associated Press report is on the situation in Rhode Island where dozens of cases have had to be reassigned to judges in New Hampshire and Massachusetts because the Senate continues to delay consideration of the nomination of Jack McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

(see exhibits 1 and 2.)

Mr. LEAHY. Regrettably, the progress we made during the first 2 years of the Bush administration has not been duplicated, and the progress we made over the 8 years from 2001 to 2009 to reduce judicial vacancies from 110 to a low of 34 was reversed. The vacancy rate we reduced from 10 percent at the end of President Clinton's term to less than 4 percent in 2008 has now risen back to over 10 percent. In contrast to the sharp reduction in vacancies we made during President Bush's first 2 years when the Democratically controlled Senate confirmed 100 of his judicial nominations, only 60 of President Obama's judicial nominations were allowed to be considered and confirmed during his first 2 years. We have not kept up with the rate of attrition, let alone brought the vacancies down. By now they should have been cut in half. Instead, they continue to hover around 100. After tonight's confirmation, they will still number 96.

The Senate must do better. The Nation cannot afford further delays by the Senate in taking action on the nominations pending before it. Judicial vacancies on courts throughout the country hinder the Federal judiciary's ability to fulfill its constitutional role. They create a backlog of cases that prevents people from having their day in court. This is unacceptable.

We can consider and confirm this President's nominations to the Federal bench in a timely manner. President

Obama has worked with Democratic and Republican home State Senators to identify superbly qualified, consensus nominations. The nominations on the Executive Calendar should not be controversial. They all have the support of their home State Senators, Republicans and Democrats. All have a strong commitment to the rule of law and a demonstrated faithfulness to the Constitution.

During President Bush's first term, his first 4 tumultuous years in office, we proceeded to confirm 205 of his judicial nominations. We confirmed 100 of those during the 17 months I was chairman during President Bush's first 2 years in office. So far in President Obama's third year in office, the Senate has only been allowed to consider 72 of his Federal circuit and district court nominees. We remain well short of the benchmark we set during the Bush administration. When we approach it we can reduce vacancies from the historically high levels at which they have remained throughout these first 3 years of the Obama administration to the historically low level we reached toward the end of the Bush administration.

I have thanked the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, for his cooperation this year. I was pleased to see him taking credit for what he called “our rapid pace.” I was encouraged by his commitment to “continue to move consensus nominees through the confirmation process.” That should be good news to Ms. Jackson and the other judicial nominees now available and ready to be confirmed without further delay.

My friend from Iowa is fond of pointing to the vacancies for which there are not nominees. Of course, some of that is attributable to a lack of cooperation by certain home State Senators with the White House. Nonetheless, I agree with the Senator from Iowa that we can do little about confirming nominations we do not have. What we can do is proceed expeditiously with the qualified nominations the President has sent to the Senate.

In that regard, I would temper my friend's extolling our achievements this year by observing that every judge confirmed so far this year could and should have been confirmed last year. Every one of them was unanimously reported last year and would have been confirmed had Republicans not objected and created a new rule of obstruction after midterm elections. We have long had the “Thurmond rule” to describe how Senator Thurmond shut down the confirmation process in advance of the 1980 Presidential election. Last year's shutdown was something new. I cannot remember a time when so many consensus nominees were left without Senate action at the midterm point of a Presidency. That new level of obstruction has contributed to our being so far behind and judicial vacancies having been perpetuated at so high a level for too long.

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, November 4, 2010.

Re Judicial Vacancies—United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID AND SENATOR MCCONNELL: On behalf of the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, I request that the Senate act soon to fill the vacancies that exist at our Court.

Of our 15 authorized judgeships, we currently have four vacancies. One has been vacant since January 2007. With the additional vacancy that will result from Judge Ricardo M. Urbina's assumption of senior status, effective January 31, 2011, this Court faces the prospect of having only 10 of its 15 authorized judgeships filled. The severe impact of this situation already is being felt and will only increase over time. The challenging caseload that our Court regularly handles includes many involving national security issues, as well as other issues of national significance. A large number of these complex, high-profile cases demand significant time and attention from each of our judges.

Without a complement of new judges, it is difficult to foresee how our remaining active judges will be able to keep up with the heavy volume of cases that faces us. A 33 percent vacancy ratio is quite extraordinary.

Two nominees (Beryl Howell and Robert Wilkins) have been reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and await floor votes; two nominees (James Boasberg and Amy Jackson) have had their hearings and hopefully will soon be reported out of Committee.

We hope the Senate will act quickly to fill this Court's vacancies so the citizens of the District of Columbia and the Federal Government and other litigants who appear before us continue to enjoy the high quality of justice they deserve.

Sincerely,

ROYCE C. LAMBERTH,
Chief Judge.

EXHIBIT 2

[From the Palm Beach Post, Mar. 6, 2011]

FEDERAL JUDGE VACANCIES: CONFIRMATION
LAG KEEPING BENCHES COOL IN SOUTH
FLORIDA

(By Jane Musgrave)

U.S. District Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley has been waiting 741 days—about two years—for his replacement to be named.

Although the genial 67-year-old former Palm Beach County circuit judge planned to remain on the bench in a limited capacity, he said the delay is worrisome.

"One of the great concerns for the court as an institution is that over time we'll have other vacancies, and if the vacancies aren't filled in a timely manner," legal logjams eventually will prevent people from getting their day in court, he said.

With two of his colleagues—U.S. District Judges Alan Gold in January and Paul Huck in July—joining him on what is known as senior status, his concern is more than academic.

The glacial speed of the U.S. Senate's judicial confirmation process, blamed on partisan politics, has hobbled courts throughout the country.

In January, a judicial emergency was declared in Arizona. To help judges deal with burgeoning immigration and border security

cases, the declaration lets them waive 70-day speedy-trial requirements and not bring criminal defendants to trial for as long as six months.

Although spurred by the shooting rampage that left Chief Judge John Roll dead and U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords wounded, the situation in Arizona was dire even before Roll's death.

South Florida is in danger of a similar crisis. Like 26 district and appellate courts throughout the country, it is on a federal watch list because of the high caseloads and disappearing judges.

Today, a person filing a civil lawsuit in federal court can expect to wait two years to get to trial, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Such delays have widespread and unintended ripple effects, said Ian Millhiser, a policy analyst for the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

"It has serious consequences for business," he said. "Imagine you're a corporation with a multimillion-dollar lawsuit hanging over your head. Even if you think you can win it, you're not going to be hiring until it is resolved, and it could take years."

The number of seats that have remained vacant since President Obama took office two years ago is unprecedented, he said. Obama's predecessors enjoyed confirmation rates as high as 93 percent, but less than 60 percent of his nominees have been confirmed. George W. Bush had a 76 percent confirmation rate during his first two years in office.

Though the Senate confirmed six federal judges last month, 98 seats are vacant, says the Office of U.S. Courts. More vacancies are expected.

"Federal judges are now retiring faster than they are being replaced," Millhiser said.

Further, he said, 81 of the vacancies are district judgeships, appointments that have historically never generated controversy. Unlike appellate judges, who often establish law, the work of the lower-court judges—drug and immigration violations, job discrimination and defective-product lawsuits—is generally routine.

"It's not ideological," he said. "There's no Democratic or Republican way to set a summary judgment hearing."

Rachel Brand, who oversaw judicial appointments as an associate counsel to Bush, pointed out that Bush made judicial appointments a priority. Although Obama initially made a flurry of nominations, it slowed, she said in a panel discussion in November sponsored by the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. Of the 98 vacancies, only 46 nominations are pending.

Other priorities, such as getting two U.S. Supreme Court justices confirmed, seemed to distract Obama's administration, she said.

Further, she said the delays can't be blamed solely on Senate Republicans. "You'd think (59) senators could do something," she said of the Democratic majority that existed until the party lost six seats in the November elections.

The problem, Millhiser said, is that Senate rules empower "the extreme fringes." Though Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., recently cut a deal to speed nominees through floor votes, that agreement means nothing if more ideological wills prevail.

"The Senate rules allow a single senator to allow 30 hours of debate," he said. "The extreme fringe can prevent a significant amount of progress. It creates a minority-rule situation."

Senate Judiciary Committee approval of Kathleen Williams, the lawyer tapped to replace Hurley, has been delayed despite the

bipartisan support she received from Florida Sens. Marco Rubio, a Republican, and Bill Nelson, a Democrat. Obama submitted her name to the committee in July.

Local attorneys said they are flummoxed by the delay in confirming Williams, the federal public defender for Florida's Southern District since 1995.

Other candidates have enjoyed bipartisan support. Of the 38 candidates who cleared the Judiciary Committee last year, 29 were endorsed unanimously but never presented for confirmation to the full Senate, Millhiser said.

Among local attorneys, the conclusion seems obvious: "it's just partisan politics," Val Rodriguez said.

Miami attorney Neal Sonnett, a former president of the American Judicature Society, which focuses on promoting an independent judiciary, agreed. Last year Republican senators blocked the confirmation process, hoping they would seize control of the Senate in the November elections, he said. Now it appears some are intent on stalling nominations until after the 2012 elections, when they hope to put one of their own back in the White House, he said.

So far, attorneys said they haven't seen lengthy delays in getting cases heard and resolved in South Florida. Chief U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno said the district is lucky because seven senior judges still handle some cases. Further, Hurley said, case filings have slowed, in part, because of the economy.

While he credits the 15 full-time judges with moving cases quickly, attorney Ted Babbitt says eventually something has to give.

"The average person is going to get hurt because they're going to have to wait to have their cases heard," he said.

[From the Associated Press, Mar. 7, 2011]
RI JUDGE HOLDUP SENDS 2 DOZEN CASES TO
NH, MA

(By Ian MacDougall)

PROVIDENCE, RI.—Rhode Island's top federal judge says a four-year judicial vacancy left open amid partisan bickering in the U.S. Senate has prompted her court to take the unusual step of reassigning more than two dozen civil cases to judges in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

In an interview, Chief Judge Mary M. Lisi told The Associated Press the vacancy has left her and Rhode Island's other federal judge, William E. Smith, with a growing caseload that has begun to reach a critical mass.

The vacancy "has had a major impact on the business of the court," Lisi said. "We have an increasing caseload being handled by only two people where three judges are authorized."

Lisi said her primary reason for moving the cases was that she worried a lag in rendering decisions at key points in the litigation would leave plaintiffs and defendants in the lurch. She said she chose to reassign cases with important motions pending.

"Our job is to resolve cases and to do so in as timely and efficient a manner as we can. And when our ability to do so is hampered, I don't think that's good for any participants in the process," she said.

A third judge, Ronald R. Lagueux, who is a senior judge, has volunteered to help to ease the burden on Lisi and Smith.

The case reassignment is one example of a real effect and a real cost, to travelling litigants, lawyers and judges of the often-snarled judicial appointment process whose unknotted U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts called for in December.

"Each political party has found it easy to turn on a dime from decrying to defending

the blocking of judicial nominations, depending on their changing political fortunes.” Roberts wrote in his 2010 report on the federal judiciary. “There remains . . . an urgent need for the political branches to find a long-term solution to this recurring problem.”

Twenty-five of the Rhode Island civil lawsuits were reassigned to New Hampshire and two to Massachusetts in late January, about two weeks after President Barack Obama nominated Jack McConnell, a Rhode Island trial attorney, to the state’s vacant judgeship for the third time. The nomination has faced resistance from some Senate Republicans and staunch opposition from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The chamber claims McConnell’s track record, which includes suing former lead paint companies, evinces a bias against business defendants.

McConnell declined to comment on his nomination.

In November 2007 almost a year after the vacancy opened then-President George W. Bush nominated Lincoln Almond, a federal magistrate judge in Rhode Island. His candidacy fizzled after a lukewarm reception from U.S. Sens., Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse.

Normally, cases are assigned to judges elsewhere, who follow the rules of the originating court, only when all judges in a given district recuse themselves. Lisi says the current situation is unique in recent state history.

Other districts facing stalled appointments have not yet taken similar steps.

However, Peter Oppeneer, court clerk for the Western District of Wisconsin, said that court might need to look to other districts for help if a vacancy there takes a long time to fill. Some Senate Republicans have opposed Obama’s nominee to that judgeship, Louis Butler.

The Rhode Island reassignment has generated some confusion and consternation among state lawyers.

George Babcock, who’s suing on behalf of more than a dozen clients in a foreclosures case transferred to New Hampshire, says the move is upsetting to some of his clients and potentially expensive. He says the court has told him the case, if it goes to trial, will be heard in Concord, N.H.

“I want to work on my cases in my office, not in a Motel 6,” Babcock said. “And with all these clients, I’m going to have to rent a whole wing at the Motel 6.”

Other lawyers with reassigned cases say New Hampshire judges have offered to travel to Providence. It is ultimately up to each individual judge to decide where the case should be heard, according to David DiMarzio, clerk for federal court in Rhode Island.

There are just over 2,500 civil cases and 205 criminal cases pending in Rhode Island, according to court figures. Of the civil cases, over 1,600 are part of multi-district litigation that Lisi says the court accepted before realizing it would be faced with an extended vacancy.

For now, Lisi says, she does not plan to transfer more cases to other districts.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am about to suggest the absence of a quorum, but I ask unanimous consent that when I suggest the absence of a quorum, the time be equally divided between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. 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. NELSON of Florida. 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. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON of Florida are printed in today’s RECORD under “Morning Business.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, we will confirm yet another of President Obama’s judicial nominees. After today’s vote, we will have confirmed five judicial nominees in the last 5 legislative days. We are moving swiftly in committee and on the Senate floor. Notwithstanding our quick pace, we hear from some that we are not moving fast enough. As I have said before, our side will continue to work in good faith to process consensus nominees. But we will not place quantity confirmed over quality confirmed. These lifetime appointments are too important to the Federal judiciary and the American people to simply rubberstamp them.

Today we will vote on Judge James Boasberg to sit on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Judge Boasberg is not the first individual nominated to fill this vacancy. This seat became vacant in May 2008, when Judge Thomas F. Hogan took senior status. President Bush nominated Jeffrey Adam Rosen in June 2008. He was unanimously rated well qualified by the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. He had over 20 years of experience in private practice, principally involved in complex business litigation matters. He had more than 5 years of public service, having served as general counsel at the Office of Management and Budget and at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Despite his qualifications, Mr. Rosen’s nomination languished in committee for over 6 months.

While I am disappointed Mr. Rosen was not given any consideration, I am pleased to be able to support Judge Boasberg. He was nominated last June and had his hearing in September. He was reported out of committee last December, during the lameduck session, and the Senate was unable to complete action on the nomination. The committee moved quickly on his renomination this year, reporting him out of committee last month.

Judge Boasberg presently serves as an associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Following the Senate’s unanimous confirmation, President George W. Bush appointed him to this position in August, 2002.

Judge Boasberg earned his B.A., magna cum laude, from Yale College,

his master of studies from Oxford University, and his juris doctor from Yale Law School. After completing law school, he clerked for the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He then went into private practice, working as a litigator on complex business and white-collar defense matters.

Judge Boasberg also served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. There he prosecuted criminal matters and specialized in homicide cases. He has received a unanimous well qualified rating from the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary.

I am pleased this seat is being filled with someone who has concrete knowledge of what it takes to be a judge, and I hope Judge Boasberg continues to work hard to serve the American people.

I congratulate the nominee and his family on this important lifetime appointment.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of the time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is yielded back.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James Emanuel Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 39 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Akaka	Bennet	Brown (MA)
Alexander	Bingaman	Brown (OH)
Ayotte	Blumenthal	Burr
Barrasso	Blunt	Cantwell
Baucus	Boozman	Cardin
Begich	Boxer	Carper

Casey	Johnson (SD)	Paul
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Portman
Coburn	Kerry	Pryor
Cochran	Kirk	Reed
Collins	Klobuchar	Reid
Conrad	Kohl	Roberts
Coons	Kyl	Rockefeller
Corker	Landrieu	Rubio
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Sanders
DeMint	Leahy	Schumer
Durbin	Lee	Sessions
Ensign	Levin	Shaheen
Enzi	Lieberman	Shelby
Feinstein	Lugar	Snowe
Franken	Manchin	Stabenow
Gillibrand	McCain	Tester
Graham	McCaskill	Thune
Grassley	McConnell	Toomey
Hagan	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Hatch	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Hoeven	Mikulski	Vitter
Hutchinson	Moran	Warner
Inhofe	Murkowski	Webb
Inouye	Murray	Whitehouse
Isakson	Nelson (NE)	Wicker
Johanns	Nelson (FL)	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss	Harkin
Crapo	Risch

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid on the table.

Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative action.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 17, S. 493, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Mary L. Landrieu, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Daniel K. Inouye, Joseph I. Lieberman, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Kay R. Hagan, Michael F. Bennet, Al Franken, Herb Kohl, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin.

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 S. 493, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from

Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Akaka	Franken	Menendez
Alexander	Gillibrand	Merkley
Barrasso	Graham	Mikulski
Baucus	Grassley	Moran
Begich	Hagan	Murkowski
Bennet	Hatch	Murray
Bingaman	Hoeven	Nelson (NE)
Blumenthal	Hutchinson	Nelson (FL)
Blunt	Inhofe	Portman
Boozman	Inouye	Pryor
Boxer	Isakson	Reed
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Reid
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Roberts
Burr	Kerry	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kirk	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Kohl	Shaheen
Casey	Kyl	Shelby
Coats	Landrieu	Snowe
Coburn	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Thune
Conrad	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Corker	Manchin	Warner
Durbin	McCain	Webb
Enzi	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feinstein	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—12

Ayotte	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
DeMint	Paul	Vitter
Ensign	Rubio	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss	Harkin
Crapo	Risch

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 12.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. 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.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MURPHY

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, last week Kansas City lost a treasure. A very special person to the Kansas City community passed away last week. This is a man, Mike Murphy, who was loved by just about everybody in the area. While his family and friends are gathered now in Kansas City for his memorial service—I am sure there are hundreds who are there—I would like to place these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in his memory. Obviously, my prayers go out to his family.

Mike Murphy has been part of the fabric of Kansas City for almost 50 years. For over 40 years, he was the

most dominant local radio personality in all of the Midwest. He was popular. In fact, he became radio lore. At times over his career, over 50 percent of people listening to the radio in Kansas City were listening to his program.

He began his career in radio in 1968. He went on to rise to a class by himself in local and regional radio and, in fact, was the winner of the prestigious Marconi award in 1998.

Thousands of truckers and salesmen throughout the Midwest heard him on the mighty KCMO and became his fans and his friends. His program was an essential part of their day. Why? What was there about this guy? He really did not have a political agenda. Unlike today, he was not busy trying to get people all upset about the issues of the day. He did not take sides on political issues. He rarely had big stars as guests, but from time to time they came through wanting to promote something. Because his show was such a dominant show in the area, they wanted to get on it. He was just a funny, irreverent guy who always made you feel as if you knew him when you listened to his program. He talked like a real person. He did not try to show off his intellect. He was smart as a whip, but he never felt the need to impress anybody—I mean anybody. He just wanted to be your pal. He was fun and funny.

He is most famous in Kansas City for starting the second largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the country. How did he start it? In 1973, he was having a drink at a bar that a buddy of his owned. He and a very prominent PR guy who worked in campaigns around Kansas City, Pat O'Neill, Sr., and maybe one or two of their other friends, called Larry Moore, a local news reporter, and said: We are going to start a parade. They went out of Hogarty's bar, marched a few blocks, and they got a little film on TV that night, and the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day parade was born.

Years later, and thousands of floats and hundreds of thousands of spectators, every year in the St. Patrick's Day parade, where was Mike Murphy? On a garbage truck. He always rode on a garbage truck. It was his way of signaling to the people of Kansas City: I am no big deal. I don't need a fancy car. I am happy up here on the garbage truck.

He was getting upset about Kansas City's heritage at one point, so in 1996 he decided: We need to have a cattle drive again through Kansas City—harkening back to the days of a frontier town, and the stockyards were an important part of Kansas City's legacy. What did he do? He started a cattle drive through downtown Kansas City. He would get some amateur cowboys and then invite a lot of his pals to get on horses and take these cattle down the main street of Kansas City.

He loved characters. He thought being called "a little goofy" was the highest compliment you could pay him.

He loved to talk about UFOs and aliens. His show was a vacation from serious. His humor was never at the expense of someone else.

I was so fortunate to be one of the many who became part of his large group of regulars. It all began with a phone call to his show when I was driving back from Jefferson City to Kansas City as a young State legislator. This was over 20 years ago. He was saying stuff on the radio—of course, I was listening to Mike Murphy as I drove because everybody listened to Mike Murphy. He was saying something on the radio that was not correct. This is before cell phones. I pulled my car off the highway. I remember to this day exactly where it was. I got on a pay phone, and I called his show because he was saying something that was not correct. I was scared to death. He took my call. I was scared. He was funny. And we became friends. Like hundreds of other people just like me, we became friends.

In fact, we became such close friends that he taunted me until I agreed to be part of the cattle drive. One year, there I was on the top of a horse riding through downtown Kansas City behind a bunch of cattle. That might have been the last year of the cattle drive because I think that was the year some of them escaped into a parking garage in downtown Kansas City, and the Kansas City police were called to see if we couldn't get them off the top of a multistory garage in downtown Kansas City.

I was blessed to be in a bleacher seat to watch his heart at work—from his annual Salvation Army show to small acts of kindness to mere acquaintances, to his incredible loyalty to his friends.

His heart was as enormous as his patience for BS was small. He also had no patience for pompous. Some of his famous shows were shows where someone came on his show who would be considered a big deal, a star. If that person began being arrogant on Mike Murphy's show, if that person started talking down to Mike Murphy's friends—his listeners—Mike would let him know in no uncertain terms that the interview was over, that he was not interested in allowing anyone to talk down to his pals—his listening audience.

I will never, ever forget the twinkle in Mike Murphy's eye. It is important that he remain one of Kansas City's brightest legends of all time.

My hope for Mike Murphy's memory—I am not surprised that Mike chose the first 17 days of March to meet his Maker because of the fun he had around St. Patrick's Day. My hope is that every St. Patrick's Day in Kansas City, people will raise a glass to Mike Murphy, and when they do, they will tell a funny story. It would be great if that story would be about Mike Murphy, but the most important thing is that it is a funny story. Let me tell you, Mike will not care if it is not even true.

To Mike Murphy, the kind of man who walks as a giant among us and we do not even realize it until he is gone, a man who never lost sight that the little salesman out there driving in his car and the mother at home doing her family's laundry were the most important people on the Earth—here's to you, Mike. Godspeed, my pal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the importance of a landmark piece of legislation, the Clean Air Act. Congress passed the Clean Air Act over 40 years ago with broad bipartisan support from both Chambers of Congress, and President Nixon wisely signed it into law. Since then, we have seen remarkable benefits to the health of our Nation. We have seen significant reductions in pollution from lead, mercury, sulfur dioxide, and a host of other contaminants. America reduced pollution and made remarkable strides in improving public health even while our economy adjusted and thrived. In fact, the Clean Air Act has a long track record of promoting job creation and economic growth while reducing pollution.

The economic benefits of the Clean Air Act are significant. For every \$1 spent on Clean Air Act protections, we get \$30 of public health benefits in return.

In the year 2010 alone, the Clean Air Act saved 160,000 lives and avoided millions of cases of pollution-related illness, including 1.7 million cases of asthma exacerbation, 130,000 heart attacks, 86,000 emergency room visits, 3.2 million lost school days, and 13 million lost work days.

This is a profoundly important law. It protects every single American from the types of pollution that can cause asthma attacks, lost school days for young children, emergency room visits, heart attacks, strokes, and even premature deaths.

The House of Representatives recently passed a continuing resolution for the remainder of the fiscal year that would make truly Draconian cuts to Clean Air Act funding and authority. These policy riders do not belong in the 7-month budget. And I am glad the Senate recently voted down that legislation.

Upon passage of the House bill, the American Lung Association, which is the leading organization working to save American lives from the ravages of lung disease, said:

The House of Representatives also adopted amendments that would block implementation of the Clean Air Act and its lifesaving protections . . .

These provisions and others adopted by the House would result in millions of Americans—including children, seniors and people with chronic disease such as asthma—being forced to breathe air that is unhealthy.

Breathing air pollution can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, cancer and shortened lives.

That is coming from one of the most respected public health organizations in the world telling us that this weakening of the Clean Air Act would have dire public health consequences, that more Americans will get sick from toxic pollution.

We can and should be flexible and listen to the industries affected by the law, but we cannot undermine its purpose. Legitimate concerns about regulation should be addressed so we can prosper and grow jobs in the United States of America. It is important that the Clean Air Act be enforced in a commonsense manner that is workable for American businesses, but we cannot abandon its core charges—to preserve public health and ensure the cleanliness of the air we breathe.

I know there is often tension between the EPA, the regulated community, and stakeholders seeking to navigate the Clean Air Act, and there probably always will be. Our economy functions best and in a way that is best for our citizens when we seek a robust Clean Air Act and are responsive to the needs of our economy.

An example of this working well is recent praise that the administration received from the CEO of a leading energy company, who said:

When I look at what EPA has done so far . . . it's actually been pretty moderate.

When the same CEO was asked whether Congress should delay the administration's work to protect public health for 2 years, he said:

That's just two more years of uncertainty where I think a lot of the investment will remain on the sideline in our industry instead of being invested in technology. We know how to build . . . I don't support delay for those reasons.

I support continued implementation of the Clean Air Act and will oppose efforts to undermine this important law. For my part, the decision is very simple: We should let doctors and scientists dictate our public health policy instead of politicians. I hope my friends on both sides of the aisle will come to this same conclusion as well and vote against efforts to weaken the Clean Air Act.

For more than 40 years, we have seen that protecting the air we breathe does not have to come at a cost to the Nation's economy. Both can improve, both must improve hand in hand.

To close, I would like to reiterate that the Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing levels of dozens of dangerous air pollutants and protecting the health of millions of Americans, all while our economy grew. This is a landmark law that has had strong bipartisan support for decades. The Senate should not weaken it.

Mr. President, 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC-FUNDED RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have been around Congress a few years. When I served in the House of Representatives 16 years ago, the Republicans won control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. They promised to change how business was done in Washington and they elected Newt Gingrich of Georgia as Speaker of the House. On his first day on the job, Speaker Gingrich addressed a black tie dinner of happy supporters and took aim at an enemy he said was undermining America's values, and that enemy was Big Bird.

Newt Gingrich denounced public broadcasting as a sandbox for the rich and he condemned it for "eating taxpayers' money." He went on to say: "They are simply enclaves of the left using your money to propagandize your children against your values."

Once the Gingrich Republican revolutionaries finished passing their so-called Contract With America, Gingrich vowed he would do everything in his power to do away with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, and the Public Broadcasting Stations. Fortunately, in the Republican and Democratic parties, cooler heads prevailed. Big Bird was spared.

Well, to borrow a line from former President Reagan, "Here we go again." When we should be talking about the serious budget deficit affecting America, the House Republican budget spent too much time resurrecting the old bumper stickers of the past. They went to America's bumper sticker museum and said: Well, let's see if there are some oldies but goodies here, and they loaded up the Republican budget bill with a lot of old issues. Some of them finally went back to the day when Newt Gingrich went after Big Bird. Sixteen years after Newt Gingrich, this new band of Republicans in the House is once again denouncing public broadcasting as a hotbed of subversive values, and they have vowed to pull the plug.

You may remember, Mr. President, our friends across the aisle actually tried to end funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting last November during the lameduck session. At that time, the rallying cry was outrage over NPR's firing of commentator Juan Williams. Now there is a new defunding effort underway and a new source of outrage. James O'Keefe, a rightwing activist with a video camera and a conservative agenda, released a video last week which he claims proves National Public Radio is a biased liberal organization that needs no Federal funding.

In the video, two allies of Mr. O'Keefe's pretend to be members of a Muslim education group who are con-

sidering making a large donation, they said, to NPR. Then they secretly recorded their meeting with two NPR executives.

If the name James O'Keefe rings a bell with Members of the Senate, it should. Remember some of the other things he was caught doing? It was James O'Keefe and his colleagues who posed as telephone repairmen and tried to lie their way into the office of our colleague, Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana. They were going to try to make one of their "gotcha" videos there. They went too far. At the end of it, Mr. O'Keefe pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of entering Federal property under false pretenses. A Federal judge sentenced Mr. O'Keefe to 3 years probation, a fine of \$1,500, and 100 hours of community service.

This same Mr. O'Keefe, in 2009, posed with some of his friends as a pimp and prostitute to secretly film a discussion with staffers of the grassroots anti-poverty group ACORN. Their video of that meeting was so inflammatory Congress vowed to eliminate all Federal funding for that group.

I cannot tell you, Mr. President, how many amendments we had on the floor of the Senate—in the midst of all the problems we were facing in the country and around the world—focused on ACORN. Three separate investigations, incidentally, later cleared ACORN of any wrongdoing. A report by the Congressional Research Service found Mr. O'Keefe's undercover videotaping may have broken laws both in Louisiana and Maryland.

Mr. O'Keefe, obviously, is not too concerned about breaking a law if he thinks he is going to come up with a sensational video. He was convicted in Louisiana, as I mentioned earlier.

The New York Daily News—not exactly a liberal news organization—concluded, when it came to the ACORN incident, "they edited the tape to meet their agenda." As California's then-Attorney General Jerry Brown said, after they investigated the ACORN video:

Things are not always as partisan zealots portray them through highly selective editing of reality. Sometimes a fuller truth is found on the cutting room floor.

Mr. O'Keefe appears to be engaged in creative editing again, and this time his target is National Public Radio. That is not just my opinion. The Web site of none other than FOX News' own Glenn Beck—that is right, Glenn Beck—compares the edited and unedited versions of Mr. O'Keefe's latest video and concludes that the edited version appears to be deceptively edited in order to portray statements by one of the secretly recorded NPR executives out of context. An example: On the video, Ron Schiller, who was then in charge of fundraising for NPR, and has since been terminated, is heard to say:

It is very clear that we would be better off in the long run without Federal funding.

I have heard that repeated over and over; that this NPR fundraising execu-

tive said "we would be better off if we didn't have Federal funding." The far right has seized on this statement as proof NPR doesn't need it and shouldn't get it. But here is the part that ended up on the cutting room floor. Schiller explained, when they looked at the full transcript, that most "philanthropists" think NPR is almost fully funded by the government, which prevents many of them from donating. Mr. Schiller also said that if NPR lost all Federal funding now, "we would have a lot of stations go dark."

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting supports nearly 1,300 local radio and TV stations in communities all across America—in Illinois and I bet in West Virginia. Direct support for those stations makes up nearly 75 cents out of every dollar they spend. I know, because when you turn them on to listen to the news, they are begging for money. You send them a check and you think, I hope they will leave us alone for a little while.

Mr. President, 170 million Americans use public broadcasting services every month. That is more than half the population of America. In my State of Illinois, 1 million people listen to our 14 public radio stations, and 3 million people rely on our 8 public television stations. All totaled, funding for public broadcasting works out to about \$1.35 per American per year—11 cents a month. I would say that is a bargain. It is a fraction of what people would pay to get good information.

Eliminating Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is going to force many smaller stations to close, if the House Republicans have their way. The first ones hit—West Virginia, the rural areas of Illinois, and smalltown America. They will be the ones to lose the service first. Rural communities will be hard hit, as they rely more than big stations in big cities on Federal funding.

Cutting all funding for public broadcasting? Does anybody seriously believe that will affect the deficit? But it would be a great loss to tens of millions of Americans who rely on public broadcasting for quality entertainment and honest, in-depth news coverage. With the momentous changes occurring in the world, and the major challenges facing our Nation, it is essential we maintain the integrity and viability of public broadcasting. There is nothing in commercial broadcasting that can replace it.

Some of our conservative friends—and one of them came up to me on the plane when I was heading home to Chicago last weekend—say they don't object so much to the content of public broadcasting, they just object philosophically to the whole idea of taxpayers' money being spent to subsidize radio and TV. They said let them go on the free market. If they can survive, fine; if they cannot, so be it. Here is what they ignore: FOX, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, virtually all the major network stations receive billions of dollars each year in public subsidies. How?

In the form of free use of the public TV spectrum. These stations do not own the airwaves. The American people own the airwaves, and we give them licenses to use our airwaves, America's airwaves, to make their profits.

The New America Foundation estimated the total value of the TV spectrum used by commercial TV stations at nearly \$5.5 billion a year, and that doesn't count the additional tens of millions of dollars that commercial TV stations make selling political ads every campaign season. Sound familiar? We have all been there, writing checks to these commercial TV stations to put on our ads so we can run for office and preserve the right of that TV station to use the public airwaves—free. The public subsidies to commercial stations dwarf what we spend on public broadcasting.

I admire the reporting on NPR, but I am a progressive Democrat. Many conservatives admire their reporting. David Brooks is a conservative I respect. He writes for the New York Times and I look forward to his column. Even when I disagree with him, I know it is a thoughtful analysis of the challenges we face. Listen to what he said:

I think NPR has done a good job over the last 10 years of reducing that bias. I thought it was really biased 10 years ago, but now I think it's pretty straight, and the Federal money for NPR doesn't go so much for the big stations. It goes out to the rural parts of the country which wouldn't have those stations otherwise.

David Brooks, you are right. If the Republicans have their way in the House, the losers will be a lot of red States in red parts of America that want to hear both sides of the story, as I believe all Americans should.

Tony Blankley was a longtime aide to Newt Gingrich who works now for FOX News and NPR. He said:

I've been on NPR regularly for a very long time. . . . From a personal perspective they have always given me plenty of access, I am clearly a right-wing commentator so I cannot complain. There's a conservative on and there's a liberal on, so that's all fair.

He added:

No editor or host has ever suggested, "Could you not be quite so conservative on this show?" I have been open and free to express my opinion.

Michael Medved is a conservative radio host. This is his take on NPR:

I think NPR tries harder to be fair than just about any other media source. . . . I listen almost every day to Morning Edition and All Things Considered. I think that they do as good a job as anybody in media in reporting the news.

The conservative blogger said of NPR:

My own interaction with them has been fine. I have found them to be fair. I think their coverage is often quite good. I think NPR does a good job.

As proof of NPR's political bias, some critics of public broadcasting point to what appear in the video to be critical comments Ron Schiller made about the Tea Party.

This is another incident of deceptive editing. The full transcript shows that Mr. Schiller was recounting the views expressed to him by two top Republicans, including a former ambassador.

Let me say very clearly: Even repeating those comments was ill-advised on Mr. Schiller's part. He no longer works for NPR.

And his comments have been roundly condemned by journalists who have given years of good work to NPR. In an open letter released last week to NPR listeners and supporters, the journalists said Mr. Schiller's comments:

. . . violated the basic principles by which we live and work: accuracy and open-mindedness, fairness and respect.

But the suggestion that NPR cannot be relied on to cover the Tea Party or conservative organizations fairly is refuted by Tea Party members themselves.

Katrina Pierson is a Tea Party activist in Houston. She told the media watchdog group Media Matters:

I think NPR was very cordial to our group. They actually came to Texas and spent a few days with us visiting our homes, and our work places. They attended meetings and asked questions. I enjoyed having them here. I think the reporting that they ended up using for All Things Considered, it was fair.

At a time in America when we value our government, when we applaud freedom, when we preach it to the world, when we beg authoritarian regimes to give their people a chance to hear both sides of the story, when we say that our Bill of Rights, when it comes to free speech and free press, should be a guidepost for the world, can we be in the business of shutting down this opportunity for Americans every single day to hear both sides of the story when it comes to the big issues? I don't think what was done in the House is about money. I think it is about a political philosophy. Many of them think they just want to shut down NPR because they are offended by some things that are said.

Let me say from my side of the spectrum, I have been offended the other way. I thought they went too far the other way. But isn't that what it is all about? They give you both sides, make up your own mind, and that is the way it should be.

We have seen what could happen when people rush to judgment after seeing selectively edited and sometimes deceptively edited videos. Shirley Sherrod was fired from her job at the Agriculture Department and painted unfairly as a bigot when she was, in fact, making a passionate plea for racial tolerance. Her comments were knowingly distorted in a video produced by a man who has, in the past, supported Mr. O'Keefe.

Congress voted to cut off Federal funding for ACORN before there was any objective investigation into Mr. O'Keefe's damaging video about them. Later investigation showed there was no criminal wrongdoing.

Let's not make the same mistake again. Let's not be duped by decep-

tively edited videos at a time when Americans need the objective reporting and informative programming that public radio and public television provide.

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. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPORT POLICY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Earlier today in Columbus, OH, the State capital of my great State, I was at the Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business. We talked by phone with Under Secretary of Commerce Francisco Sanchez, who is one of the leaders at the Department of Commerce, on how to grow exports in this country.

The President has charged the Congress, our businesses, encouraged all of us to find ways to double exports as a major path to economic growth, especially to grow manufacturing in our country. We know that for the last several months, we have seen manufacturing growth, albeit too small, but manufacturing growth in this country.

That is especially important in Ohio. My State is the third leading manufacturing State in the country, behind only California and Texas, States which are two and three times our size in population. Yet Ohio has kept pace with doing relatively well in manufacturing. But we know what has happened to manufacturing in our country in the last 30 years.

Only 30 years ago, manufacturing was more than one-quarter of our GDP, financial services was about 10 or 11 percent of GDP. In these 30 years that position has almost flipped. Financial services is over one-quarter of our GDP, manufacturing is only 10, 11, or 12 percent. That is why the President and his push on exporting is so important, not that we only export manufacturing goods, of course, we export services, as we should. But clearly manufacturing is a major component of that.

I sit on the President's Export Advisory Council with leaders of the administration and the CEOs of some of America's largest companies and many successful mid-sized and small companies in this country. We had a meeting last Friday with Secretary Locke, Under Secretary Sanchez, Secretary of State Clinton, Jim McNerney of Boeing, Ursula Burns of Xerox, Alan Mullaly of Ford, as part of the President's export council.

In Ohio, as a result, I have put together an export advisory council. We met today in Columbus. That is what our meeting was about, to talk about ideas. We heard from Albert Green of Kent Displays, William Dawson of NexTech Materials, Philip Irwin of Ametek Solidstate Controls, Randall Willaman of Command Ilkon, Inc., Mark Friedman of National Biological Corporation, Arlinda Vaughan from Volk Optical, and Ken Hagen from Fosbel.

All of them raised concerns directly to the Under Secretary of Commerce and directly to me, concerns about corruption in Russia, concerns about tariffs in Brazil, concerns we all face and all of our companies face in breaking into the Chinese market, and many other concerns about everything from medical devices to export of services and all of that. So the meeting was important.

I will mention one other. Susan Helpert, the head of the Economics Department at Case Western, had particularly good thoughts about how we grow manufacturing in this country. We know those jobs are created by medium and small businesses. We also know that fewer than 1 percent of American companies actually export. Even as close as we are to Canada or to Mexico, only 1 percent of our businesses export. So we know we have to do much more.

In Germany, for instance, 20 percent of their workforce is in manufacturing. They have a trade surplus with the rest of the world, while we have a huge almost insidious trade deficit. Germany has done some pretty interesting things in encouraging manufacturing.

As many people point out, we have not had in our country a manufacturing policy. I spoke with Pat Russo tonight, who is the former CEO of Lucent Technologies and a couple of—she sits on the General Motors board and a couple of other people from the GM board I spoke to, and talked about the fact that we do not have a manufacturing policy in this country. That is why we are seeing other countries begin to do much better in manufacturing, while we have, by and large, drifted in our policies and our strategies on manufacturing.

There are several things that came out of this meeting that we need to do. We need to pay particular attention on economic development assistance and creating economic development partnerships and business incubators.

We need to pay special attention to help those companies get access to capital. That has been a vital roadblock—as the Presiding Officer from Oregon has been involved—a roadblock to our full economic recovery. We need to look at our R&D tax credits.

Part of a national manufacturing policy should be increases in R&D tax credits, including making 48(C) a part of the Code that encourages conservation, encourages more efficiencies in energy production and in energy use, making 48(C) permanent.

It means workforce training—our Sectors Act, which matches up what local businesses and labor unions and community colleges and workforce investment boards do to retrain workers so they find jobs after that training. That is why we are doing at end of the month our fourth annual Ohio College Presidents Conference, where I invite in some 55, 60 college presidents. We have done it for the last 3 years, since my second year in the Senate, to talk about these issues: How do we encourage people to become engineers? How do we help with access to college, particularly in light of the fact that Republicans are trying to cut Pell grants several hundred dollars per student, sometimes a couple of thousand, \$3,000 a family, whatever.

How do we fight back and make sure that students have access to education and to our higher education system, those who choose to go to college? We have a lot of work to do. All of this includes, as I said at the White House the other day in the meeting of the President's Export Council, while we work on exports, we need to fix our trade agreements, we need to fix our tax policy, we need to make sure those workers who lose their jobs because of trade—and this is so often forgotten about by my Republican colleagues—workers who lose their jobs because of trade have to be compensated. They need to be retrained. They need to keep their health care. That is why the Presiding Officer and I and many others have to fight for the extension—Senator CASEY especially from Pennsylvania—of trade adjustment assistance and the health coverage tax credit, two long-time Federal programs. The TAA, Trade Adjustment Assistance, was started bipartisanly under President Kennedy in 1962.

Those are so important for workers who have lost jobs through no doing of their own but because of trade agreements passed wrongfully, wrong-headedly in this body and in the House. Because of trade agreements they have lost their jobs. We need those workers to have the opportunity to be retrained and to continue to keep their health insurance after they have been laid off through no fault of their own.

Our efforts to double exports is extraordinarily important for economic growth. At the same time it is important that we are sensitive to those workers who have lost their jobs because of trade policy. We can do this right. We can enforce our trade laws more aggressively as President Obama has begun to do. We can work on trade agreements. We can fix trade policy so it actually helps American workers and American consumers. Instead of practicing trade policy adopted out of a textbook that is 20 years out of print, we ought to be adopting a trade policy that is in our Nation's national interest. As we move with President Obama and this Congress toward a manufacturing strategy and, even better, a manufacturing policy such as most of

the rest of the industrialized world has, we will all be in a better position to build a middle class in Oregon and Ohio and across the country.

I yield the floor.

CFTC HEDGING AUTHORITY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, you hear a lot of talk about the trouble in the Middle East, and people are saying that oil prices are going up and, therefore, the pain at the gas pump is being felt because there is this shakiness in the oil markets. You hear the commentary: Well, we ought to be solving this problem by drilling more in the United States. In essence what people are talking about is they want to drill more in the Gulf of Mexico. Of course, there is plenty of opportunity to drill in the Gulf of Mexico. There are 30 million acres that are already under lease that have not been drilled. There are 7 million acres that are being drilled under lease, but there are an additional 30 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico under lease, so there is plenty of opportunity. There is a lot more opportunity for domestic drilling.

But what I want to talk about today is, it is this simplified message that if we drill more domestically—which we clearly have the capacity to—that is going to solve the problem. That is not the problem, and that is not the reason for why the gas prices are going up as they are.

I will grant you that whenever there is an oil-producing region of the world where there is a disruption, then that does have some effect on the price of oil. But what we have seen is an extraordinary spike in the last couple of months in the price of oil. I want to try to point out to the Senate why this Senator thinks, and a number of my colleagues join me, that spike in gas prices is going up.

There is further evidence that our energy markets are no longer governed just by the economic dictums of supply and demand when it comes to oil prices. That is what I want to talk about. It is simply this: The speculators are back. We saw the speculators in oil futures contracts. We saw their handiwork 2 years ago when the price of oil hit an all-time high of \$147 a barrel. This time the speculators are seizing on the turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa to use that as an excuse to drive this price of oil sky high. Yet recent upheavals abroad have had little, if any, effect on the actual supply of oil.

Again, coming back to the economic theories of supply and demand, Libya, for example, controls only 2 percent of the world's oil supply. Well, there is a key piece of evidence that points the finger at these "condo flippers" in the commodities market. Data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the CFTC, reveals that since January, when the protests began in Egypt, speculators have increased their

betting on future oil price increases by more than 38 percent.

Meanwhile, legitimate hedgers for oil futures contracts, legitimate hedgers such as airlines and shipping companies and oil companies have actually reduced their holdings in oil futures contracts.

All you need to do to see what is happening is as represented on this chart. You see closely how the rise of oil prices, the red line, tracks the increases in speculative activity, the white line. A long position in a futures contract means you are betting that the price of oil will go up and, therefore, you buy a contract to buy oil at a determined amount in the future. That is what this chart is about.

As you go over here, on January 25 of this year, the day the protests began in Egypt, the speculative money was on long held positions in just over 217,000 West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures contracts. West Texas Intermediate crude is the standard by which they judge. When the protests began in Egypt, they were down at 217,000 futures contracts. That is the equivalent of about 217 million barrels of oil. On March 8, the last day for which we have the data, these same speculators held the equivalent of more than 301 million barrels of crude, which was an increase of 38 percent, from 217,000 to 301 million.

Look how closely the price of oil tracks those swings. This is the speculative buying or betting in futures contracts, the white line. Look how closely the price of oil follows the red line.

During the same period, from January 25 to March 8, the price of oil climbed from \$85 a barrel all the way up to \$105 a barrel. That is an increase of nearly 24 percent. Guess who is the loser in this game of profit gouging. It is the American consumer. Our gasoline prices mean less money for anything the American consumer has to buy. And, at the end of the day, guess who else is the big loser. It is the American economy.

These speculative bubbles in oil prices are becoming more and more common. We saw it in the summer of 2008 when oil spiked up to an unbelievable \$147 per barrel, only to plummet almost 80 percent a few months later. You cannot say that going from \$147 a barrel all of a sudden down to \$30 a barrel back in 2008 had anything to do with supply and demand. There had to be another influencing factor.

Because of this, last year when we passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Congress empowered the CFTC to rein in excessive speculation to keep the commodities markets from flying off the rails. Just look. It is in the last 2 months. Yet, the Commission, the CFTC, has yet to finalize new rules to govern the speculative position limits.

Meantime, what happens is speculators continue to buy \$100 worth of oil futures with \$6 down, 6 percent down to buy oil contracts for futures. I believe

the law we passed last year has given the CFTC an extremely effective tool at its disposal that it could use to discourage excessive energy speculation and bring down gas prices our American consumers are now finding hurting their pocketbooks so much. That authority is the authority to impose higher margin requirements on oil futures contracts. So instead of \$6, they could require that there be more than 6 percent they would have to pay down on buying a futures oil contract.

In the current system some ordinary investors have to put down as much as 50 percent in order to buy things, while financial speculators have to post only 6 percent to buy a futures contract in oil. That does not seem to me to be fair and is leading to this kind of system which is now causing pain at the pump.

These kinds of margin requirements are not set by Federal regulators but, rather, by the exchanges themselves. For the same reason we do not let pharmaceutical companies approve of their own drugs, we should not let futures exchanges self-regulate by setting their own margin requirements. Fortunately, in a section of the Dodd-Frank bill, section 736, Congress removed the broad statutory restriction that prohibited the CFTC from setting those margin requirements. That section authorizes the CFTC to call for higher margin requirements in order to protect the financial integrity so this kind of event does not happen.

I am calling on the CFTC now to exercise the authority the Congress, signed into law by the President, gave them last July. I am asking them to get going.

There is a letter that has been circulated here among the Senators encouraging the CFTC to use the Commission's power to increase margin requirements on these oil speculators. I want to urge my colleagues who are listening to join in this letter as it is circulated among your offices. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, these new margin requirements would take effect as soon as July. But the CFTC must begin the rulemaking process now, because if we do not, and get into the summer driving season, you know what is going to happen here. This is March. It is going to keep going up and up.

I want to be clear, that where those who have a legitimate reason, such as airlines, shipping companies, oil companies, to buy future contracts, that margin level would not apply. It will only apply to the speculators. Imposing a higher margin level on speculators is consistent with existing exchange practices. For example, the New York Mercantile Exchange, the major trading platform on oil futures, imposes different margin rates on speculators as compared to bona fide hedgers. Anybody who has been at the gas pump recently knows this is a real issue, and they are asking us to do something about it.

Then we hear in return it is supply and demand. I am trying to prick that

balloon, bust that bubble. Congress and the administration need to be out front doing everything we can to ensure that the price of oil reflects the real supply and demand, not the irrational speculative fervor. With the right policies, we can discourage the damage excessive speculation is doing.

I ask two things of my colleagues. I ask that they all take a look at the letter being circulated to Commissioner Gensler, Chairman of the CFTC. Don't fall for the notion that more drilling is going to put an end to the spiral. I am all for drilling in all those acres out there that are already leased. I am all for it, if it is done safely. But guess what we are hearing. We are starting to hear: Drill, baby, drill.

Facts are stubborn. Even if there was expanded drilling in the United States, it is not going to affect the price of gas in the short term or even over the next half a dozen years. That is largely because the United States holds 2 to 3 percent of the world's supply, which is not enough to affect prices globally. Further, the oil and gas companies have 30 million acres that are leased but not drilled offshore and another 30 million acres onshore and they are not even drilling yet. Simply put, attempts to link the recent increases in the price of oil to the need for increased drilling are off the mark. Frankly, we haven't changed the way we do business with oil companies. Unfortunately, it has been a little less than 1 year since the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded. We know what damage that did to the fisheries, the tourism, the economy of the entire gulf region. A lot of oil is still there. American citizens continue to fight to get their lost claims paid. We are not going to know for years to come what the long-term impacts will be, but certainly the economic damage is rising and rising.

Even worse, if another spill happened today, the responsible party would still have only a liability cap of \$75 million. We have to address that.

In the meantime, we have to confront high gas prices. We need a multi-pronged approach that includes getting the CFTC to do its job.

CLUSTER MUNITIONS CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on March 10, my friend from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, and I introduced S. 558, the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2011. It is identical to the bill she and I introduced last year and similar to those in prior years.

Cluster munitions, like any weapon, have some military utility. But anyone who has seen the indiscriminate devastation cluster munitions cause over a wide area understands the unacceptable threat they pose to civilians. These are not the laser-guided weapons the Pentagon showed destroying their targets during the invasion of Baghdad.

There is the horrific problem of cluster munitions that fail to explode as

designed and remain as active duds, like landmines, until they are triggered by whoever comes into contact with them. Often it is an unsuspecting child or a farmer. In Laos today, people are still being killed and maimed by millions of U.S. cluster munitions left from the Vietnam war. That legacy, resulting from years of secret bombing of a peaceful, agrarian people who posed no threat to the United States, contaminated more than a third of Laos' agricultural land and cost countless innocent lives. It is shameful that we have contributed less money in the past 35 years to clean up these deadly remnants of war than we spent in a few days of bombing.

Current law prohibits U.S. sales, exports, and transfers of cluster munitions that have a failure rate exceeding 1 percent. The law also requires any sale, export, or transfer agreement to include a requirement that the cluster munitions will be used only against military targets.

The Pentagon continues to insist that the United States should retain the ability to use millions of cluster munitions in its arsenal which have estimated failure rates of 5 to 20 percent. It has pledged to meet the 1 percent failure rate for U.S. use of cluster munitions in 2018. But, like Senator FEINSTEIN, I do not believe we can justify using antiquated weapons that so often fail, so often kill and injure civilians, and which many of our allies have renounced. That is not the kind of leadership the world needs and expects from the United States.

Senator FEINSTEIN's and my bill would apply the 1-percent failure rate to U.S. use of cluster munitions beginning on the date of enactment. However, the bill permits the President to waive the 1-percent requirement if he certifies that it is vital to protect the security of the United States. I urge the Pentagon to work with us by supporting this reasonable step.

Since December 3, 2008, when the Convention on Cluster Munitions opened for signature in Dublin, 108 countries have signed the treaty, including Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Norway, Australia, and other allies of the United States. However, the Bush administration did not participate in the negotiations that culminated in the treaty, and the Obama administration has not signed it.

Some have dismissed the Cluster Munitions Convention as a pointless exercise since it does not yet have the support of the United States and other major powers such as Russia, China, Pakistan, India, and Israel. These are some of the same critics of the Ottawa treaty banning antipersonnel landmines, which the United States and the other countries I named have also refused to sign. But that treaty has dramatically reduced the number of landmines produced, used, sold, and stockpiled, and the number of mine victims has fallen sharply. Any government that contemplates using landmines

today does so knowing that it will be condemned by the international community. I suspect it is only a matter of time before the same is true for cluster munitions.

It is important to note that the United States today has the technological ability to produce cluster munitions that meet the requirements of our bill, as well as the treaty. What is lacking is the political will to expend the necessary resources. There is no excuse for continuing to use cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

I urge the Obama Administration to review its policy on cluster munitions and put the United States on a path to join the treaty as soon as possible. In the meantime, our legislation would be an important step in the right direction.

I again commend Senator FEINSTEIN, who has shown such passion and persistence in raising this issue and seeking every opportunity to protect civilians from these indiscriminate weapons.

NATIONAL METRO SAFETY ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on Thursday I reintroduced the National Metro Safety Act with Senators CARDIN, MURRAY, WARNER and WEBB. I first introduced this bill on July 23, 2009, after the deadly crash on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Metro system that killed 9 people and injured more than 50.

This legislation does three things. First, it gives the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary the authority to establish and enforce national safety standards for metro systems across America. Second, it requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with the National Transportation Safety Board to develop these standards. Third, it requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to implement NTSB's most wanted safety standards. These include: crash-worthiness, data event recorder, emergency entry and evacuation standards for rail cars; and hour of service regulations for train operators.

On Monday June, 22, 2009, the unthinkable happened right here in our Nation's Capital. A Metro train struck another train during evening rush hour. Eight passengers were killed including one Marylander from Hyattsville and one Metro employee. Over 50 passengers were injured by the crash. It was the worst accident in Metro's history.

Approximately, 1 year later, the NTSB released its report from its investigation of the crash. This was the saddest report with grim revelations. It found that the Metro crash could have been prevented and nine lives could have been saved. The NTSB's investigation found two probable causes: a faulty track circuit and the lack of a track circuit verification test. This test would have identified the malfunctioning circuit and could have prevented the crash.

The NTSB also found attributing causes to the crash. These included a lack of a safety culture at Metro; failure to monitor the train control system and replace its oldest railcars; lack of a maintenance plan from the circuit manufacturer; Metro Board and the Tri-State Oversight Committee's ineffective safety oversight; and the Federal Transit Administration's lack of authority to provide safety oversight.

In its report, the NTSB also made 23 recommendations to prevent future fatal crashes. Among these was the recommendation to the U.S. Department of Transportation to seek the authority to provide safety oversight to transit systems and to establish and enforce national safety standards. The NTSB did its job and now it is time for Congress to do ours. We must pass this bill to give the U.S. Department of Transportation the authority it needs to establish Federal safety standards.

We have Federal safety standards for airplanes, commuter rail, and buses, but none for metro systems. Rail transit is the only transportation mode without Federal safety standards, oversight and enforcement even though it has over 14 million daily riders. This is more than U.S. airlines with 2 million domestic flights daily or passenger railroads like Amtrak and MARC each with 74,430 and 30,000 daily riders respectfully. Up until now, safety has been left up to the states. Each State has its own safety and enforcement practices. States have oversight agencies with very little staff, small budgets and varying amount of expertise. These oversight agencies also aren't always independent of the transit systems they oversee.

I know the Obama administration has its bill to establish standards and the Banking Committee has its bill. I support both of these but let me tell you why I am crazy about my bill. It requires the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary to implement the NTSB's most wanted. These are the recommendations the NTSB has consistently called for.

Congress must do two things. First, it must meet its Federal funding obligation for Metro. We must provide \$150 million for Metro in the year-long continuing resolution. I want to thank Senator MURRAY for including these vital funds in the Senate's bill. This is really \$300 million for Metro with the local matching funds.

Metro needs this money to implement the NTSB's recommendations and prevent future crashes. This money is essential to Metro's reform. It is American's subway. This isn't a local pork barrel. America needs it to go to work. Metro serves not only our civilian population, but also the many people working at the Pentagon every day that need to be at their duty station and their battle station. We need Metro to be safe and operational reliable.

Second, Congress must pass this legislation. We owe it to the people that ride Metro and we owe it to the people that work at Metro. We can never forget the people that died that fateful day. I urge the Senate to pass safety legislation so no community ever has to suffer the loss that the National Capital Region did during the summer of 2009.

TRIBUTE TO VICKIE BEAVER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, my state of Oregon is blessed with a tremendous number of generous and philanthropic individuals. But I would like to take a moment today to single out one of them and recognize her years of dedication to helping others.

Vickie Beaver of Lebanon, OR, has been elected president of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies by her fellow members. The town of Lebanon and the State of Oregon have benefited greatly from Vickie's civic and philanthropic work. Now, in her position as president, she can do the same for people all across the U.S. I am honored to know of such an exemplary leader in the State I proudly serve.

This is nothing new for our State. Vickie is the fifth Oregonian to serve as national president of the Rebekahs, and the second Lebanon, OR, native.

The Rebekahs, along with their partners the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, are a 192-year-old service organization with more than 10,000 lodges spanning over 25 countries around the world. The aim of the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows is the simple but awe-inspiring goal of making the world a better place to live. It is a daunting goal that both organizations take very seriously. Members are involved in a variety of different relief projects, including the Educational Foundation which provides scholarships and loans for students aspiring to go to college, the SOS Children's Village which is an orphanage project in Cambodia and the Living Legacy project which plants trees and enhances the environment of neighborhoods. The organization's philosophy is that friendship, love and truth, can create peace and harmony in the world.

Vickie has been active in the Rebekahs for more than 30 years, continuing a family legacy of service that goes back four generations. Within Rebekahs, Vickie is known for her commitment to the community and hard work in support of the Rebekah initiatives. It is this dedication that led to her election to various leadership positions in the organization over the years, and, finally, as president. During her tenure as the guiding spirit of the Educational Foundation, she worked closely with the Lebanon School District as well as with nationally recognized organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. Through its grants, the foundation provides deserving young men and women the opportunity to attend college, something they otherwise would not be

able to do because of financial limitations. Since its creation in 1927 with the goal of educating future generations, the foundation has provided loans and grants to over 3,500 college-bound students. The Rebekahs believe that education is the foundation of a more enlightened community, and has made it their mission to offer that gift to deserving young men and women around the country.

Vickie's genuine concern for the well being of the young adults in her community certainly strengthened the Educational Foundation's outreach to the students. I am sure Vickie will bring the same dedication to her new position as president of the Rebekah Assemblies.

I would like to once again congratulate Ms. Vickie Beaver, an inspiring leader from the town of Lebanon in my State of Oregon. Vickie's work clearly embodies the Rebekah Assemblies' and Odd Fellows efforts to make the community a better place for America's youth to live, grow and prosper. I know that she will take her new role in the Rebekah Assemblies very seriously, and I have no doubt in my mind that she will do an exceptional job.

FWS FUNDING

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, like many Arkansans, I am very concerned about the administration's proposal to cut \$6,288,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, National Fish Hatchery Operations, where the production of fish is for the purpose of mitigating the effects of Federal water development projects. Under this proposal, several National Fish Hatcheries, including the Greers Ferry and Norfolk National Fish Hatcheries in Arkansas, are scheduled to lose their FWS funding. The reliability of alternative mechanisms to provide Federal funding for the operation of FWS mitigation hatcheries is currently uncertain.

I am working with the Arkansas delegation and the administration to preserve the ongoing responsibility of FWS to fund and operate the National Fish Hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry Dams, and to make sure we "allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality" of Arkansas communities and our country.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent to have the Arkansas House Resolution No. 1014 of 2011, which was adopted in its entirety on February 24, 2011, by the Arkansas House of Representatives, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1014

Whereas, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service plans to cut the budgets for the trout hatcheries below Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams; and

Whereas, these fish hatcheries provide the foundation for Arkansas's world-renowned

trout fishery waters that produce a total economic impact of well over one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) annually but only 9 cost taxpayers approximately one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) annually to operate. The hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams alone generate five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) in federal tax revenues, roughly three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65) for every one dollar (\$1.00) invested; and

Whereas, seventy-five (75) years ago, north Arkansas's White River was arguably the best smallmouth bass stream in America. Fisherman came from all over the country to experience once-in-a-lifetime float trips down the beautiful bluff-lined river; and

Whereas, upon a series of dams being built in the White River basin in the 1940s, the federal government assured the state's citizens that mitigation efforts would be included to offset the loss of the river's incredibly productive native fishery. The key component of this commitment was the construction of Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in 1955 near Norfolk Dam and the establishment of world-class trout waters below both Norfolk and Bull Shoals lakes; and

Whereas, a decade later, the trout hatchery at the base of Greers Ferry Dam provided the means for a similarly successful fishery to be established at the Little Red River in Greers Ferry; and

Whereas, these modest projects rank among the all-time success stories of our federal government because of the overall economic impact and return on investment they produce; and

Whereas, fish production at the Norfolk hatchery employs nine hundred ninety-four (994) individuals, and the Greers Ferry hatchery employs an additional seven hundred fifty-two (752) people; and

Whereas, dozens of resorts employing hundreds of individuals have been established in these world-class fishing areas because of the increase in tourism. The town of Cotter, Arkansas, for example, bills itself as "Trout Capital USA"; and

Whereas, trout fishing in the White River basin is worth about three times the annual flood losses prevented by Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Greers Ferry, and Clearwater reservoirs, and these structures averted fifty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$51,400,000) in damages in the last fiscal year; and

Whereas, the electricity generated from Bull Shoals Lake and Norfolk Lake averages approximately one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of electricity each year, but the trout fishery is worth an additional fifty percent (50%) more than that on an annual basis; and

Whereas, investment in the Norfolk and Greers Ferry Fish hatcheries has consistently demonstrated positive returns for more than half a century. The federal government's goal to reduce the federal deficit and increase economic growth would be damaged, not enhanced, if funding for trout programs is reduced or eliminated to the detriment of its promise to Arkansas and to these small towns whose livelihood depends on the fish hatcheries: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the President and Congress of the United States work together to continue the immediate and future funding of the national fish hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams and allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these towns, the State of Arkansas, and the entire country; be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President

of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Army Caucus co-chair, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. JIM INHOFE, I rise today to recognize one of our country's finest soldiers. GEN George W. Casey, Jr., the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, is retiring after over 40 years of distinguished service to our Nation. General Casey has led soldiers at every level from platoon to division and all the way to chief, continuing the tradition of service begun by his father, MG George W. Casey, Sr., Commander, 1st Cavalry Division, killed in a helicopter crash on July 7, 1970, while visiting his troops during his assignment in Vietnam.

Later in 1970, General Casey earned his commission as a second lieutenant through Georgetown University's Reserve Officer Training Corps and began his service to our Nation as an infantry officer. While serving in Germany, he excelled as a platoon leader and was selected to attend Ranger School and Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Fort Benning, GA, in 1974. Over the next 12 years, General Casey was assigned to units within the 4th Infantry Division, Mechanized, Fort Carson, CO. These postings culminated in his promotion to lieutenant colonel, serving as Commander, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry in 1985.

In 1991, then-Colonel Casey continued his career with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. His success led to an Army fellowship and congressional liaison assignments in the Washington, DC area. Colonel Casey then returned to Europe as the Chief of Staff, V Corps, United States Army Europe. When forces were ordered into Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Colonel Casey deployed to Tazsar, Hungary, as part of USAREUR Forward. Later, leading the 1st Armored Division as Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, he oversaw the peaceful resettlement of Bosnian villages throughout the Multi-National Division-North MND(N) area of operations. He also oversaw the security of the first free elections on September 14, 1996, as mandated by the Dayton Peace Accord.

Over the next 10 years General Casey would make historic and lasting impacts as a leader at the highest levels of the Army. From 2001 until 2003, as the Director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Casey was a key figure in the crisis action planning

to prosecute the global war on terror. In this position, General Casey was responsible for advising National, Defense, Joint and Army senior leadership about strategic issues and joint capabilities, requirements and resources. Later, his participation in Department of Defense and interagency affairs helped shape concepts that defined the future conduct of joint training and operations. The results of his efforts are visible today in the ongoing transformation of the American military into a more lethal, flexible, and responsive Joint force.

In 2003, as Director of the Joint Staff, General Casey's uncompromising support of our nation's deployed forces contributed to successful operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world. During this period of changing global conditions and evolving challenges to the security of the United States, General Casey led the Joint Staff with unparalleled professional leadership and expertise. His participation in the national security decisionmaking process directly enhanced the security and welfare of the Nation.

As the 30th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 2003 until 2004, General Casey employed his outstanding leadership and management skills to assist the Chief of Staff in supporting the Nation's war on terror and put the Army on course for one of the most profound transformations in their history. Recognizing the soldier as the centerpiece of the Army as well as the need to sustain the all-volunteer force that was stressed and strained by conflict, General Casey aggressively worked to care for soldiers and their families, ensuring the forces' success throughout the world. His legacy as the Vice Chief of Staff is an Army postured to meet the challenges of the 21st century as a result of his superior ability to lead in a period of war and profound transition.

As the Commanding General of Multi-National Force-Iraq from 2004 until 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, General Casey's leadership of a 32-nation coalition, in coordination with its Iraqi partners, developed and implemented the actions that eliminated numerous terrorist safe havens. This began the rollback of insurgent gains throughout the country, setting the conditions for Iraq's first free national elections after 30 years of tyranny. Later, through the implementation of a vigorous counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaign, he established a level of stability and security which allowed infrastructure reconstruction activities in Iraq to quadruple.

Following his service in Iraq, General Casey was selected to serve as the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army in 2007. He synchronized the continuous generation and deployment of combat power to meet requirements of two ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and multiple operations around the world. A

strategic leader for our Army, and our Nation, he has personally led the transformation of the Army to meet the security challenges of the 21st century and restore balance to the force to set the conditions for continued success in the second decade of this era of persistent conflict. These innovative changes enabled Army forces to execute wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as successfully implement multiple humanitarian missions around the globe.

When history looks back at the decades of service by the 36th Chief of Staff of the Army, it will be clear that he embodied the highest ideals of the American military professional. Our Nation owes General Casey, his wife Sheila, and their family its sincere appreciation for his truly extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Army. I wish him, his wife Sheila, their two sons Sean and Ryan and their families continued success and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY KENNETH O. PRESTON

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my cochair of the Army Caucus, the junior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. DANIEL AKAKA, I congratulate Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston is retiring after 36 distinguished years of service.

Sergeant Major Preston is a native of Mount Savage, MD. He entered the Army as a cavalry scout in June 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position, including cavalry scout, platoon sergeant, and tank commander. He served as Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division, V Corps in Germany and the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was an instrumental leader during the invasion of Iraq.

In 1975, Sergeant Major Preston was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, as they were transforming from an Air Cavalry Division to a Heavy Division. He spent his first years in the military as a scout, excelling on every vehicle from motorcycles to dune buggies, surpassing his peers and distinguishing himself as a superior leader. Two years later, Sergeant Major Preston was promoted to sergeant and moved to the 33rd Armor Regiment, 3rd Armor Division in Germany. His commanders again recognized his superior leadership skills and selected him first as a senior gunner and then as the commander of the battalion commanders tank. Throughout his command, his tank was consistently named top tank in the battalion.

Sergeant Major Preston took the knowledge and expertise he gained in

Germany to Fort Knox where he became a master gunner instructor. He excelled once again and was hand-picked for an exchange tour with the British Army as a tank instructor in Dorset, England. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston has served in every senior enlisted position in the Army, from platoon sergeant to command sergeant major. He held command sergeant major positions at 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division; then at 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, at 1st Armored Division, and finally at V Corps in Germany. Before becoming Sergeant Major of the Army, he was the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 serving in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His leadership and operational expertise were instrumental in planning and executing the attack on the forces of Saddam Hussein.

One of the most enduring contributions Sergeant Major Preston has made to our Nation was implementing the largest transformation of the Army's noncommissioned officer education system since the system was first developed. As the backbone of the Army, noncommissioned officers have specific education requirements throughout their career. The Advance and Senior Level Courses now are more in line with what our leaders need in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the roll out of Structured Self-Development, an on-line module system that will ensure our noncommissioned officers receive the best training, noncommissioned officers are better educated, which pays huge dividends on the battlefield. Also, with new distributed learning, the Army's first-line leaders are able to spend more time at home with their families while taking classes online.

Over the last 7 years, Sergeant Major of the Army Preston served as the Sergeant Major of the Army, the highest enlisted position attainable in the Army. He assumed this position during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom and proved himself a tremendous wartime leader, demonstrating unselfish devotion to our Nation and the soldiers. He worked tirelessly to restore balance to a force stretched and stressed by the demands of the longest war our Nation has ever known. His personal observations and advice helped guide Army leadership during the implementation of the most comprehensive transformation of the Army since World War II. The end result was building of the most versatile Army in the history of our Nation. Its modular units and improved capabilities enabled the Army to execute its strategy of full-spectrum operations. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston was instrumental in ensuring that this plan adhered to principles of commonsense and care for soldiers and their families. He worked with Army leadership to increase support to families by implementing the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant. These programs increased support for Army families by expanding and improving services while raising aware-

ness about the unique challenges military families face. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston testified numerous times before Congress on behalf of the 1.1 million soldiers and millions of family members under his care. His clear and passionate testimony resulted in increased compensation, improved housing, improved health services and an overall better quality of life.

The impact of Sergeant Major of the Army Preston's efforts will be felt and seen in our Army for decades to come. His untiring devotion to duty, his love for the Army and its soldiers and families, and his professionalism has left a legacy of trained and educated soldiers. When history looks back at the Army's 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, it will be clear that his personal leadership contributed to the building of the most professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps the world has ever known. We wish him and his wife Karen continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program, and to terminate the program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-868. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis eCry3.1AB Protein in Corn; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8866-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-869. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting pursuant to law, the 2010 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-870. A communication from the Commissioners of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Interim Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-871. A communication from the Director, Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for the year ending March 1, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-872. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Human Reliability Program: Identification of Reviewing Official" (RIN1992-AZ00) received in the office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-873. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Certification, Compliance, and Enforcement for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment" (RIN1904-AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-874. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Test Procedure for Microwave Ovens" (RIN1904-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-875. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the Open Burning Regulations" (FRL No. 9278-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-876. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of One-Year Extension for Attaining the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard in the Baltimore Moderate Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9278-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-877. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources" (FRL No. 9279-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-878. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 51" (FRL No. 9277-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-879. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting the Public and Our Employees in Our Hearing Process" (RIN0960-AH29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-880. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, to include technical data, and defense services to support the design, manufacture and delivery of the SATMEX 8 Commercial Communication Satellite to Mexico in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-881. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Education Acquisition Regulation" (RIN1890-AA16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate, 111th Congress" (Rept. No. 112-2).

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. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 565. A bill to establish an employment-based immigrant visa for alien entrepreneurs who have received significant capital from investors to establish a business in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 566. A bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 567. A bill to amend the small, rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 568. A bill to establish a pilot grant program for first responder agencies that experience an extraordinary financial burden resulting from the deployment of employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REID, Mr. LEE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 569. A bill to provide for fairness for the Federal judiciary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 570. A bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from tracking and cataloging the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 571. A bill to amend subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide education for homeless children and youths, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 572. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the prohibition on collective bargaining with respect to matters and questions regarding compensation of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs other than rates of basic pay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 573. A bill to establish a harbor maintenance block grant program to provide maximum flexibility to each State to carry out harbor maintenance and deepening projects in the State, to require transparency for water resources development projects carried out by the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr.

KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 101. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide public safety providers an additional 10 megahertz of spectrum to support a national, interoperable wireless broadband network and authorize the Federal Communications Commission to hold incentive auctions to provide funding to support such a network, and for other purposes.

S. 214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 214, a bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes.

S. 215

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 215, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the roles and responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR)

were added as cosponsors of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 328

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 328, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify that countervailing duties may be imposed to address subsidies relating to fundamentally undervalued currency of any foreign country.

S. 344

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, 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, and for other purposes.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to codify and modify regulatory requirements of Federal agencies.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare program.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with States and non-

profit organizations to collaborate in the provision of case management services associated with certain supported housing programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 509, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to clarify the rights and responsibilities of Federal entities in the spectrum relocation process, and for other purposes.

S. 528

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to provide driver safety grants to States with graduated driver licensing laws that meet certain minimum requirements.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to strengthen the quality control measures in place for part B lung disease claims and part E processes with independent reviews.

S. 549

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 549, a bill to require the Attorney General of the United States to compile, and make publically available, certain data relating to the Equal Access to Justice Act, and for other purposes.

S. 550

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 550, a bill to improve the provision of assistance to fire departments, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 554, a bill to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for the prosecution in Article III courts of the United States of individuals involved in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

S. 559

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to promote the production and use of renewable energy, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the Jewish chaplains who died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 51, a resolution recognizing the 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 98, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the school breakfast program.

S. RES. 99

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator

from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 99, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the primary safeguard for the well-being and protection of children is the family, and that the primary safeguards for the legal rights of children in the United States are the Constitutions of the United States and the several States, and that, because the use of international treaties to govern policy in the United States on families and children is contrary to principles of self-government and federalism, and that, because the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child undermines traditional principles of law in the United States regarding parents and children, the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 100

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 100, a resolution designating March 11, 2011, as "World Plumbing Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 565. A bill to establish an employment-based immigrant visa for alien entrepreneurs who have received significant capital from investors to establish a business in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to support the StartUp Visa Act of 2011, as the leading Republican cosponsor, because I believe this legislation will increase the possibility that companies such as Google, Intel, Yahoo and Proctor & Gamble—which were all started completely or in part by immigrant entrepreneurs—will continue to be founded in America. This legislation will help immigrant entrepreneurs like Paroon Chadha, Purdue University alumnus and cofounder of a company that currently employs more than two dozen American-born Hoosiers and continues to grow—as demonstrated by plans to hire four additional staff members in April 2011. Paroon and I believe America remains the best country in the world to do business and that we should continue attracting immigrant entrepreneurs to help drive innovation and job creation here at home.

At a time when our country struggles to achieve full economic recovery, foreign-born entrepreneurs who wish to establish companies and create jobs in the United States, often with the financial backing of American investors, are instead operating from other countries because they find the process of immigrating to the U.S. too difficult. The logic of our current approach places America at a competitive disadvantage in the global race to attract the very best talent and is counterproductive to our national interest.

According to a 2009 survey of American entrepreneurs conducted by the Kauffman Foundation, an overwhelming majority of the participants felt that "the United States cannot have a sustained economic recovery without another burst of entrepreneurial activity." Over the past 15 years, immigrant entrepreneurs have started 25 percent of venture-backed public companies and 40 percent of companies in the high technology sector. A 2007 report commissioned by the National Venture Capital Association noted that the market capitalization of publically traded venture-backed companies founded by immigrant entrepreneurs exceeded \$500 billion.

The StartUp visa represents a commonsense solution to this problem and does not require the creation of new visas. The bill proposes to draw from existing visas under the EB-5 category, which is a set-aside of visas for immigrants who invest at least \$1 million in the U.S., and thereby create 10 jobs, to obtain a green card. In areas where unemployment is high, foreign nationals need only invest \$500,000 to obtain residency. Many more visas are annually allocated for the EB-5 category than are used, so the addition of immigrant entrepreneurs will not require additional visas.

Better utilizing existing visas, immigrant entrepreneurs living outside the United States would be eligible to apply for a StartUp visa if a qualified American investor agrees to financially sponsor their entrepreneurial venture with a minimum investment of \$100,000. After 2 years, their business must have created five new jobs and raised not less than \$500,000 in additional capital investment or generate not less than \$500,000 in revenue.

Additionally, immigrant entrepreneurs currently residing in the United States on an unexpired H-1B visa or immigrant entrepreneurs currently in the country who have completed a graduate level degree in science, technology, engineering, math, computer science, or other relevant academic discipline from an accredited United States institution of higher education would be eligible for a StartUp visa. Eligibility in each of these cases is contingent upon the immigrant entrepreneur demonstrating that they will be self-sufficient and that a qualified U.S. investor will financially back their entrepreneurial venture with a minimum investment of \$20,000. After 2 years, their business must have created three new jobs and raised not less than \$100,000 in additional capital investment or generate not less than \$100,000 in revenue.

Finally, immigrant entrepreneurs living outside the U.S. who have controlling interest of a company based in a foreign country that has generated, during the most recent 12-month period, not less than \$100,000 in revenue from sales in the U.S. would be eligible to apply for a StartUp visa. At the conclusion of 2 years, this immigrant en-

trepreneur must have created three new jobs in the U.S. and raised not less than \$100,000 in additional capital investment or generate not less than \$100,000 in revenue.

Immigrant entrepreneurs want to come to America, hire Americans, and create jobs right here for Americans—and we should be helping them come. Senator KERRY and I believe that it is in our national interest to encourage those who can help drive the next generation of innovation to do it here, not someplace else. This plan has the support of investors, immigrants, technology organizations, and taxpayers. I ask for your support on passage of this bill.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 566. A bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce a bill and talk about an issue that has, unfortunately, become a regular occurrence in Alaska and holds great interest to the Nation and the world. I am talking about volcano monitoring. While erupting volcanoes are a early constant part of our lives in Alaska, it usually takes a worldwide event such the eruption last year of a volcano in Iceland, which disrupted air traffic in Europe and around the world, to capture the public's attention.

Two years ago it was the eruption of Mount Redoubt, which cancelled hundreds of flights in Alaska that motivated me to introduce the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act. I reintroduce the bill now because it is still vitally important to the United States.

The volcanoes in Alaska make up well over three-quarters of U.S. volcanoes that have erupted in the last two hundred years. About 50 volcanic eruptions occur around the world every year, according to the United States Geological Survey, USGS. The United States ranks third, behind Indonesia and Japan, in its number of historically active volcanoes.

That is why it is so important to fund volcano monitoring, which in Alaska is through the Alaska Volcano Observatory. The Alaska Volcano Observatory, AVO, is one of five Volcano observatories in the United States. It is a joint program of the United States Geological Survey, the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. AVO is unique in the United States and probably the world, in that it is a thoroughly collaborative undertaking of federal scientists, state scientists, and university faculty and students.

AVO was formed in 1988, after an eruption of Mount Augustine, and uses federal, state, and university resources to monitor and study Alaska's hazardous volcanoes, to predict and record

eruptive activity, and to mitigate volcanic hazards to life and property. Alaska has over 30 active volcanoes currently being monitored by the Alaska Volcano Observatory. No other observatory in the world comes even close to that number. AVO also analyzes available satellite data twice daily for thermal anomalies and ash plumes at about 80 volcanoes in the north Pacific. Russian volcanoes frequently put ash into areas where the U.S. has aviation safety responsibilities. Alaska's active volcanoes also offer superb opportunities for basic scientific investigations of volcanic processes. An important component of AVO's program is to conduct research at selected volcanic centers.

Alaska's volcanoes are potentially hazardous to passenger and freight aircraft as jet engines sometimes fail after ingesting volcanic ash. On December 15, 1989, a Boeing 747 flying 240 kilometers, 150 miles, northeast of Anchorage encountered an ash cloud erupted from Redoubt Volcano and lost power in all four jet engines. The plane, with 231 passengers aboard, lost more than 10,000 feet of elevation before the flight crew was able to restart the engines. After landing, it was determined the airplane had suffered about \$80 million in damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said about 100 encounters of aircraft with volcanic ash were documented from 1983 to 2000. In some cases engines shut down briefly after sucking in volcanic debris, but there have been no fatal incidents.

The FAA estimates, based on information provided by the Federal Aviation Administration, that more than 80,000 large aircraft per year, and 30,000 people per day, are in the skies over and potentially downwind of many of Alaska's volcanoes, mostly on the heavily traveled great-circle routes between Europe, North America, and Asia. Along this route, which coincidentally follows the northern portion of the Pacific "ring of fire", are over 100 volcanoes capable of depositing ash into the flight path. Some are in Japan, many are in Russia, but about half are in Alaska. By analyzing satellite imagery and working with the National Weather Service to predict where winds will carry the ash, AVO assists the Federal Aviation Administration in warning aircraft of areas to avoid.

Volcanic eruptions from Cook Inlet volcanoes, Spurr, Redoubt, Iliamna, and Augustine, can have severe impacts, as these volcanoes are nearest to Anchorage, Alaska's largest population center. The last major series of eruptions of Mt. Redoubt occurred in the spring of 2009. The Alaska Volcano Observatory had recorded 26 volcanic eruptions and/or explosions at Redoubt volcano.

There were several impacts from this series of eruptions from Mount Redoubt. Two major lahars, mudflows, moved down the Drift River and partially inundated an oil terminal. Air-

borne ash clouds posed a hazard to aviation and caused multiple flight cancellations and reroutes. Alaska Airlines cancelled approximately 200 flights. FedEx, United Parcel Service and several other cargo airlines rerouted aircraft to Seattle. Ash fall forced Ted Stevens International Airport, the third busiest cargo airport in the world, to close for 20 consecutive hours. Disruption to the aviation industry was significant for passenger travel and cargo transportation between Asia and North America. Minor ash fall impacted several communities as far downwind as Delta Junction, Alaska, 400 miles northeast of Anchorage. Elmendorf Air Force Base assets were temporarily relocated. There were also impacts to oil field operations due to the cessation of oil storage at Chevron's Drift River Oil Terminal. The economic impact is estimated to be less than or equal to the Redoubt eruptions also disrupted air traffic in the region. Hundreds of commercial flights were cancelled and cargo companies were significantly impacted. This resulted in employees being placed on unpaid leave during periods when airport operations were shut down.

International volcano monitoring is also a role of the Federal Government. It likely saved many lives—and significant money—in the case of the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, where the United States had military bases at the time. The cataclysmic eruption lasted more than 10 hours and sent a cloud of ash as high as 22 miles into the air that grew to more than 300 miles across. The United States Geological Survey spent less than \$1.5 million monitoring the volcano and was able to warn of the impending eruption, which allowed authorities to evacuate residents, as well as aircraft and other equipment from U.S. bases there. The USGS estimates that the efforts saved thousands of lives and prevented property losses of at least \$250 million.

It is not enough to justify a program by just identifying a danger. The more important question is whether something can be done to reduce the impact of a volcanic eruption in terms of property damage and loss of life. That means getting people out of harm's way by providing advance warning. And this is exactly what the USGS Volcano Hazards Program seeks to do through the existing volcano observatories in the United States.

The advances made in monitoring can now provide much more accurate and timely predictions of eruptions. As an example, in 1989, AVO was only able to provide a few days warning before Mount Redoubt erupted. This year, they began to detect activity and notified the public two months before it eventually erupted.

The biggest challenge remains finding an adequate and stable source of funding. The USGS Volcano Hazards Program has been constantly underfunded. Both USGS and the FAA pro-

vide funding, but it is not enough to manage all the observatories or provide for an expansion of the system to cover increased monitoring and volcano research.

It is because of the inadequate funding, and critical importance of this program, that I intend to introduce a bill that will provide the funding stability that volcano monitoring needs. This program shows that with a modest investment, a very large benefit can be produced in reducing the impacts of catastrophic events.

My legislation will establish a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System within the United States Geological Survey to monitor warn and protect citizens from undue and avoidable harm from volcanic activity. The USGS will coordinate a management plan with the other relevant federal departments, including the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The legislation authorizes appropriations of \$15 million annually to the Department of Interior to carry out the Act.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 567. A bill to amend the small, rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, Senator COLLINS, as we introduce the REAP Reauthorization Act of 2011. Nearly one-third of America's public schools are in rural places, and 23 percent of our students attend these schools. Unfortunately, the unique nature of rural schools creates significant challenges as they work to meet federal education requirements.

Geographic isolation, diseconomies of scale, and poverty are some the challenges commonly cited as major barriers to education delivery in rural places. Unfortunately, Federal education funding programs—which are often based on population—do not provide adequate resources for rural schools to overcome these obstacles and meet programmatic requirements. Additionally, rural school districts often forgo federal education dollars because they lack the capacity to apply for competitive grants.

Senator COLLINS and I began working together a decade ago to ensure equity for rural schools. With bipartisan support, we successfully fought to include the original Rural Education Achievement Program—otherwise known as REAP—in the No Child Left Behind Act.

To date, REAP is the only source of federal funding dedicated to helping

rural school districts overcome financial inequality caused by geographic isolation and poverty. REAP dollars make a critical difference in rural States like North Dakota, where schools with graduating classes of five try to enact the same education reforms and provide the same opportunities as those provided by schools with graduating classes of 500. Since its creation, REAP has provided rural schools with flexibility and over \$1.5 billion to carry out Federal education programs.

With the pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we are reintroducing our REAP Reauthorization Act in the 112th Congress. The REAP Reauthorization Act makes improvements to the Rural Education Achievement Program that will more closely target Federal resources to geographically isolated and high-poverty rural districts.

The program-wide changes made in this bill will provide many districts with access to necessary resources by allowing eligible districts that do not receive funds under the Small Rural Schools Program to participate in the Rural Low Income Schools Program. Our bill also incorporates new locale codes to make the program consistent with those developed by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Additionally, the bill makes program-specific improvements to the Small, Rural School Achievement Program to increase minimum and maximum grant allocations when REAP is funded at \$200 million or above. Lastly, our REAP Reauthorization proposal incorporates a more accurate measurement of poverty to determine eligibility for the Rural and Low-Income Schools Program. With these changes, more school districts and students in rural America will benefit from REAP resources.

I am pleased that Senator COLLINS is joining me again this year as an original cosponsor of this bill, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important 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 printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 567

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 "Rural Education Achievement Program Reauthorization Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. SMALL, RURAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM.

Sections 6211 and 6212 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7345, 7345a) are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6211. USE OF APPLICABLE FUNDING.

"(a) ALTERNATIVE USES.—
 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible local educational agency may use the applicable funding that the agency is eligible to receive

from the State educational agency for a fiscal year to carry out local activities authorized under any of the following provisions:

- "(A) Part A of title I.
- "(B) Part A or D of title II.
- "(C) Title III.
- "(D) Part A or B of title IV.
- "(E) Part A of title V.

"(2) NOTIFICATION.—An eligible local educational agency shall notify the State educational agency of the local educational agency's intention to use the applicable funding in accordance with paragraph (1), by a date that is established by the State educational agency for the notification.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency shall be eligible to use the applicable funding in accordance with subsection (a) if—

"(A)(i)(I) the total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the local educational agency is fewer than 600; or

"(II) each county in which a school served by the local educational agency is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and

"(ii) all of the schools served by the local educational agency are designated with a school locale code of Fringe Rural, Distant Rural, or Remote Rural, as determined by the Secretary; or

"(B) the agency meets the criteria established in subparagraph (A)(i) and the Secretary, in accordance with paragraph (2), grants the local educational agency's request to waive the criteria described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

"(2) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall determine whether to waive the criteria described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) based on a demonstration by the local educational agency, and concurrence by the State educational agency, that the local educational agency is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

"(c) APPLICABLE FUNDING DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'applicable funding' means funds provided under any of the following provisions:

"(1) Subpart 2 and section 2412(a)(2)(A) of title II.

"(2) Section 4114.

"(3) Part A of title V.

"(d) DISBURSEMENT.—Each State educational agency that receives applicable funding for a fiscal year shall disburse the applicable funding to local educational agencies for alternative uses under this section for the fiscal year at the same time as the State educational agency disburses the applicable funding to local educational agencies that do not intend to use the applicable funding for such alternative uses for the fiscal year.

"(e) APPLICABLE RULES.—Applicable funding under this section shall be available to carry out local activities authorized under subsection (a).

"SEC. 6212. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible local educational agencies to enable the local educational agencies to carry out activities authorized under any of the following provisions:

- "(1) Part A of title I.
- "(2) Part A or D of title II.
- "(3) Title III.
- "(4) Part A or B of title IV.
- "(5) Part A of title V.

"(b) ALLOCATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall award a grant under subsection (a) to a local educational agency eligible under section 6211(b)

for a fiscal year in an amount equal to the initial amount determined under paragraph (2) for the fiscal year minus the total amount received by the agency under the provisions of law described in section 6211(c) for the preceding fiscal year.

"(2) DETERMINATION OF INITIAL AMOUNT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The initial amount referred to in paragraph (1) is equal to \$100 multiplied by the total number of students in excess of 50 students, in average daily attendance at the schools served by the local educational agency, plus \$20,000, except that the initial amount may not exceed \$60,000.

"(B) SPECIAL RULE.—For any fiscal year for which the amount made available to carry out this part is \$100,000,000 or more, subparagraph (A) shall be applied—

"(i) by substituting '\$25,000' for '\$20,000'; and

"(ii) by substituting '\$80,000' for '\$60,000'.

"(3) RATABLE ADJUSTMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amount made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year is not sufficient to pay in full the amounts that local educational agencies are eligible to receive under paragraph (1) for such year, the Secretary shall ratably reduce such amounts for such year.

"(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If additional funds become available for making payments under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year, payments that were reduced under subparagraph (A) shall be increased on the same basis as such payments were reduced.

"(c) DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall disburse the funds awarded to a local educational agency under this section for a fiscal year not later than July 1 of that fiscal year.

"(d) SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY RULE.—A local educational agency that receives a grant under this subpart for a fiscal year is not eligible to receive funds for such fiscal year under subpart 2."

SEC. 3. RURAL AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Section 6221 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7351) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6221. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

"(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under section 6234 for this subpart for a fiscal year that are not reserved under subsection (c), the Secretary shall award grants (from allotments made under paragraph (2)) for the fiscal year to State educational agencies that have applications submitted under section 6223 approved to enable the State educational agencies to award grants to eligible local educational agencies for local authorized activities described in section 6222(a).

"(2) ALLOTMENT.—From amounts described in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State educational agency for that fiscal year an amount that bears the same ratio to those amounts as the number of students in average daily attendance served by eligible local educational agencies in the State for that fiscal year bears to the number of all such students served by eligible local educational agencies in all States for that fiscal year.

"(3) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCIES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.—If a State educational agency elects not to participate in the program under this subpart or does not have an application submitted under section 6223 approved, a specially qualified agency in such State desiring a grant under this subpart may submit an application under such section directly to the Secretary to receive an award under this subpart.

"(B) DIRECT AWARDS.—The Secretary may award, on a competitive basis or by formula,

the amount the State educational agency is eligible to receive under paragraph (2) directly to a specially qualified agency in the State that has submitted an application in accordance with subparagraph (A) and obtained approval of the application.

“(C) SPECIALLY QUALIFIED AGENCY DEFINED.—In this subpart, the term ‘specially qualified agency’ means an eligible local educational agency served by a State educational agency that does not participate in a program under this subpart in a fiscal year, that may apply directly to the Secretary for a grant in such year under this subsection.

“(b) LOCAL AWARDS.—

“(1) ELIGIBILITY.—A local educational agency shall be eligible to receive a grant under this subpart if—

“(A) 40 percent or more of the children ages 5 through 17 years served by the local educational agency are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and

“(B) all of the schools served by the agency are designated with a school locale code of Distant Town, Remote Town, Fringe Rural, Distant Rural, or Remote Rural, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) AWARD BASIS.—A State educational agency shall award grants to eligible local educational agencies—

“(A) on a competitive basis;

“(B) according to a formula based on the number of students in average daily attendance served by the eligible local educational agencies or schools in the State; or

“(C) according to an alternative formula, if, prior to awarding the grants, the State educational agency demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the alternative formula enables the State educational agency to allot the grant funds in a manner that serves equal or greater concentrations of children from families eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, relative to the concentrations that would be served if the State educational agency used the formula described in subparagraph (B).

“(c) RESERVATIONS.—From amounts appropriated under section 6234 for this subpart for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

“(1) one-half of 1 percent to make awards to elementary schools or secondary schools operated or supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to carry out the activities authorized under this subpart; and

“(2) one-half of 1 percent to make awards to the outlying areas in accordance with their respective needs, to carry out the activities authorized under this subpart.

“(d) SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY RULE.—A local educational agency that is eligible to receive a grant under this subpart and is also eligible to receive a grant under subpart 1, may receive a grant under this subpart for a fiscal year only if the local educational agency does not receive a grant under subpart 1 for such fiscal year.”

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a program designed to address the unique needs of rural schools. The Rural Education Achievement Program, or REAP, is designed to help level the playing field for small and high-poverty rural school systems. It is the only dedicated Federal funding stream to aid rural school districts in overcoming the increased expenses caused by geographic isolation.

Nearly one-third of America’s public schools are in rural places, and more than 21 percent of our public school

students attend these schools. Students in rural America should have the same access to Federal dollars and a good education as those students who attend school in urban and suburban communities. For this reason, I worked with Senator KENT CONRAD in 2001 to author the law creating the REAP program. REAP created two grant programs including the Small and Rural Schools Achievement Program, SRSA, which provides additional funding and flexibility to small rural school districts, and the Rural and Low-Income School Program, RLIS, which provides additional funding for poor rural school districts.

Prior to enactment of this law, rural school districts received funds calculated on school enrollment. In many of these districts, Federal formula programs, which are based on population, do not produce enough resources to carry out the purposes the grant is intended to fund. One school district in Maine, for example, received only \$28 in 2001 to fund a districtwide safe and drug-free school program.

In addition, small and rural school districts often forgo Federal education dollars because they lack the personnel and the resources to apply for competitive grants. Having fewer personnel also creates additional challenges in providing professional development opportunities. Small rural districts are often located long distances from other districts, towns, and universities, drastically reducing opportunities to partner or collaborate. By allowing rural school districts to combine funds, as well as providing additional funds, REAP gives these districts the levels of resources required to undertake significant reform. Funds from this program have already helped to support new technology in classrooms, distance learning opportunities, and professional development activities, as well as a vast array of other programs which will help rural districts make progress towards the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In 2007 and 2009, along with Senator CONRAD, I cosponsored legislation to reauthorize this important program. Unfortunately, no action has been taken. The REAP Reauthorization Act of 2011 would reauthorize and enact a few focused changes to the law. These changes will allow Federal funds to be even more closely targeted to geographically isolated districts. One important change will allow program eligible districts to participate in the Rural and Low-Income School Program if they would not receive financial benefits from the Small and Rural Schools Achievement Program.

Education is an essential driver for economic development. This rings true especially in rural America, where schools are the linchpin of rural communities. I am encouraged to see that the Maine School Management Association has spoken in support of the REAP Reauthorization Act of 2011. As cochair of the Senate Rural Education

Caucus, I will continue to work towards our goal of advancing the educational interests of rural schools and districts.

Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Maine School Management Association.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAINE SCHOOL
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION,
Augusta, Maine, March 1, 2011.

Re Reauthorization of REAP.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association want to thank you for your continued sponsorship of the REAP Program. Specifically, our Associations are pleased to support the 2011 Reauthorization of REAP. Throughout the years, REAP funding has helped to provide equity for many small schools in Maine and our expectation is that will continue with this Reauthorization.

Both, the National School Boards Association and the American Association of School Administrators also are supportive of the Reauthorization of REAP.

The Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association appreciate your continued support for public education. We want to commend you for your willingness to pay attention to various legislative issues that may impact Maine public schools. We also want to praise your staff for their expertise and accessibility to our organizations. As always, our Associations are available as a resource to you and to your staff.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

TERRY McCABE,
Associate Executive Director.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself,
Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr.
GRAHAM, Mr. REID, Mr. LEE, Mr.
INOUYE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr.
LIEBERMAN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 569. A bill to provide for fairness for the Federal judiciary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2011.

I want to thank Senator HATCH, as well as Senators LEAHY, GRAHAM, REID, LEE, INOUYE, BINGAMAN, LIEBERMAN, and KERRY, for working with me as co-sponsors of this important bill.

The Federal Judicial Fairness Act is a straightforward bill that would ensure that Federal judges receive cost-of-living adjustments to their salaries on the same terms as other Federal civilian employees.

Let me be clear from the outset: This bill would not provide a judicial pay raise. In fact, it would not even guarantee a cost-of-living adjustment for this year, the next year, or the next. Instead, it would simply guarantee that in years in which other Federal civilian employees receive cost-of-living adjustments to their salaries to account for inflation, Federal judges will as well.

Under current law, two procedural requirements prevent this from happening.

First, the “linking” of judicial and Congressional salaries means that judges cannot receive a cost-of-living adjustment unless Congress first votes to provide an adjustment for its own Members.

Second, due to a 1981 provision known as “Section 140,” even if Congress votes to adjust its own Members’ salaries, Congress must pass a second, special provision stating that judges should receive this adjustment as well.

The Federal Judicial Fairness Act’s would amend this pay structure and provide that Federal judges should receive adjustments on the same term as other Federal civilian employees.

Why is this important?

Article III of the United States Constitution requires that Federal judges shall “receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.”

This is a constitutional guarantee, entitled to due respect. Serious concerns arise when, as is the current system, political pressures result in the real value of judicial salaries diminishing and declining over time. Justice Kennedy expressed it this way in his 2007 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please accept my respectful submission that, to keep good faith with our basic charter, you have the unilateral constitutional obligation to act when another branch of government needs your assistance for the proper performance of its duties. It is both necessary and proper, furthermore, that we as judges should, and indeed must, advise you if we find that a threat to the judiciary as an institution has become so serious and debilitating that urgent relief is necessary. In my view, the present Congressional compensation policy for judicial officers is one of these matters.

Additionally, as members of the Senate, I believe we have a responsibility to make every effort to recruit and retain the very best for the Federal bench. Both recruitment and retention become far more difficult when we cannot assure candidates that the salary provided at the beginning of a life appointment will hold its value over time. This assurance is basic for other Federal employees and should be for our Federal judges as well.

The Federal Judicial Fairness Act is a commonsense, good government bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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. 569

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 “Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. JUDICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.

(a) REPEAL OF STATUTORY REQUIREMENT RELATING TO JUDICIAL SALARIES.—Section 140 of the resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1982, and for other purposes.”, approved December 15, 1981 (Public Law 97-92; 95 Stat. 1200; 28 U.S.C. 461 note), is repealed.

(b) AUTOMATIC SALARY ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 461(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) Effective at the beginning of the first applicable pay period commencing on or after the first day of the month in which an adjustment takes effect under sections 5303 and 5304 of title 5 in the rates of pay under the General Schedule, each salary rate which is subject to adjustment under this section shall be adjusted by an amount, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100 (or, if midway between multiples of \$100, to the next higher multiple of \$100) equal to the percentage of such salary rate which corresponds to the overall average percentage of the adjustment in the rates of pay under the General Schedule.”.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself,

Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 571. A bill to amend subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide education for homeless children and youths, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to talk about legislation that I have introduced that is essential to the academic success of millions of vulnerable children and youth.

The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act responds to the growing crisis of homelessness in our nation. The legislation will help homeless children and youth thrive in school, despite the constant moves, trauma, and loss associated with homelessness.

The recession has contributed to homelessness among two groups of students: children who are homeless with their families, and youth who are homeless on their own. This reality was brought starkly to light in a recent CBS 60 Minutes special about homeless children. The series documented several Florida families that have fallen on hard times, yet are doing their best to make ends meet and keep their children in school. It was heartbreaking to see these families who are struggling. However, it increased my resolve and determination to introduce this legislation, which will provide much-needed support for kids across the country.

The numbers of homeless children are shocking. During the 2008–2009 academic year, there were almost 1 million homeless children enrolled in public schools across the nation. That was a 41 percent increase over the previous two years. Unfortunately, this alarming trend shows no sign of abating. Many states are reporting increases between 5 and 35 percent for the 2009–2010 school year. We owe it to these children to provide them with a safe place where they can learn and become successful adults.

We know that school offers homeless children and youth structure, normalcy, support, and hope—it is a place where they can obtain the skills that they will need to avoid poverty and homelessness as adults. Yet these students face great educational challenges. High mobility, precarious living conditions, and severe poverty combine to create major barriers to school enrollment and regular attendance. Many homeless children and youth lack basic supplies and a reasonable environment where they can do homework. As a result of their circumstances, homeless students often perform below their peers in math and reading and are more likely to be held back.

We must do more to assist these students so they do not continue to be left behind. The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2011 would do just that. The bill amends the McKinney-Vento Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. It makes a strong law even stronger by reinforcing and expanding the law’s key provisions: school stability, enrollment, and support for academic achievement.

My legislation will enhance the right of homeless children to stay in the same school, so that children who have lost their homes do not also lose their schools. It will assist schools in meeting the challenges of transporting homeless students by increasing the authorized funding level and allowing other federal funds for educating low-income students to be used for homeless transportation. When staying in the same school is not possible, or not in a child’s best interest, the legislation will help the student make a seamless transition to a new school.

One of the most successful features of the McKinney-Vento program is the requirement for every school district to designate a liaison for homeless children and youth. Liaisons identify homeless students, ensure their enrollment and attendance, and connect them to community resources. Liaisons are the backbone of this program, the unsung heroes who have become a lifeline for children and youth in crisis. Yet most liaisons do not have the capacity to carry out their required duties; they wear many hats and struggle to meet the growing demands of this population. As a result, too many homeless children and youth are falling through the cracks and missing out on school. The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act will strengthen the critical position of homeless liaison by ensuring that liaisons have the time, resources, and training to fulfill their mandated duties.

The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act also recognizes the unique needs of certain groups of homeless children: preschool-aged homeless children, and unaccompanied homeless youth.

Young children who are homeless have higher rates of developmental

delays and other problems that set them back as they start out life, yet they face numerous barriers to participating in early childhood programs. They miss out on services that can mitigate the harmful effect of homelessness on their development. This legislation will increase homeless children's participation in preschool programs by requiring public preschool programs to identify and prioritize homeless children for enrollment, and to develop the capacity to serve all identified homeless children.

Unaccompanied homeless youth struggle to go to school without the basic necessities of life or a parent to guide them. We must assist unaccompanied homeless youth to overcome the unique educational challenges related to being without a home and without a parent or guardian. This legislation will help ensure that unaccompanied homeless youth have the supports necessary to stay in school, graduate with their peers, and move on to a brighter future.

The history of litigation under the McKinney-Vento Act makes clear that we must do a better job helping educators learn about homelessness and support them in implementing the law. To this end, the legislation provides funding for technical assistance and training, and requires participation in professional development activities.

As we work on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we must recognize that children who do not know where they will sleep at night, or where their next meal will come from, face far greater challenges than simply remembering to do their homework. We must acknowledge that children who bounce between schools with each change of residence have little hope of taking advantage of even the best school programs. The most qualified teacher, or the most exceptional math or reading program, will not benefit children who are not enrolled in school, not attending regularly, and not assisted to overcome the barriers caused by homelessness. The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act builds upon the proven successes of the McKinney-Vento Act's Education of Homeless Children and Youth program, while addressing remaining challenges. It is critical legislation that will help ensure that the homeless children of today do not become the homeless adults of tomorrow.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 101—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE RELATING TO THE MARCH 11, 2011, EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN JAPAN

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS,

Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 101

Whereas at 2:46 pm on March 11, 2011, an earthquake initially reported as measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale, the strongest recorded in more than 100 years in Japan, occurred near the Tohoku region of Northeast Japan, 81 miles off the coast from Sendai City;

Whereas intense shaking could be felt from Tokyo to Kamaishi, an arc of roughly 360 miles;

Whereas the earthquake generated a massive tsunami that caused widespread damage to a swath of the northeast Japanese coastline and traveled across the Pacific Ocean, causing damage to coastal communities as far away as the States of Hawaii, Oregon, and California;

Whereas authorities in Japan confirm at least 2,800 deaths from the earthquake and resulting tsunami, a toll that is expected to rise as many thousands remain missing as of the date of approval of this resolution;

Whereas approximately 400,000 people have been displaced from their homes and are now living in shelters or with relatives;

Whereas within minutes of the earthquake, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration alerted emergency workers in the States of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska that a potentially catastrophic tsunami was heading toward those States and mobilized the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific;

Whereas the earthquake forced the emergency shutdown of 4 nuclear power facilities in Japan, representing a significant loss of electric generation capacity for Japan and necessitating rolling blackouts in portions of Tokyo;

Whereas the earthquake and the resulting tsunami severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, precipitating

a loss of power for cooling systems at that facility and necessitating emergency measures to prevent serious radiation leakages;

Whereas emergency management experts at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are continuing to work with authorities in Japan to address the challenges posed by the damage to the Daiichi nuclear facility;

Whereas international response to the disaster has been swift, with search and rescue teams arriving from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, and China, among other countries;

Whereas the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and its support vessels have deployed to the earthquake region to participate in search and rescue and relief operations;

Whereas elements of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), a United States Agency for International Development Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), and other United States military and civilian personnel have deployed to Japan to render aid and help coordinate United States relief efforts;

Whereas January 19, 2011, marked the 51st anniversary of the signing of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, which has played an indispensable role in ensuring the security and prosperity of both the United States and Japan, as well as in promoting regional peace and stability;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is based upon shared values, democratic ideals, free markets, and a mutual respect for human rights, individual liberties, and the rule of law;

Whereas Japan is among the most generous donor nations, providing billions of dollars of foreign assistance, including disaster relief, annually to developing countries; and

Whereas the Self-Defense Forces of Japan have contributed broadly to global security missions, including relief operations following the tsunami in Indonesia in 2005, reconstruction in Iraq from 2004 to 2006, and relief assistance following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of life resulting from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, 2011;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of this tragedy;

(3) expresses its sympathies to the survivors who are still suffering in the aftermath of this natural disaster;

(4) commends the government of Japan for its courageous and professional response to this natural disaster;

(5) supports the efforts already underway by the United States Government, relief agencies, and private citizens to assist the government and people of Japan in their time of need; and

(6) urges the United States and the international community to provide additional humanitarian assistance to aid the survivors and support reconstruction efforts.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 161. Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 162. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 163. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 164. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 165. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 166. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 167. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 168. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 169. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 161. Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—COMPREHENSIVE 1099 TAXPAYER PROTECTION

SEC. 601. REPEAL OF EXPANSION OF INFORMATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO PAYMENTS MADE TO CORPORATIONS AND TO PAYMENTS FOR PROPERTY AND OTHER GROSS PROCEEDS.

(a) APPLICATION TO CORPORATIONS.—Section 6041 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsections (i) and (j).

(b) PAYMENTS FOR PROPERTY AND OTHER GROSS PROCEEDS.—Subsection (a) of section 6041 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “amounts in consideration for property,” and

(2) by striking “gross proceeds,” both places it appears.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to payments made after December 31, 2011.

SEC. 602. REPEAL OF EXPANSION OF INFORMATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL PROPERTY EXPENSE PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6041 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (h).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made after December 31, 2010.

SEC. 603. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF OVERPAYMENT OF HEALTH CARE CREDIT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO RECAPTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 36B(f)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer whose household income is less than 400 percent of the poverty line for the size of the family involved for the taxable year, the amount of the increase under subparagraph (A) shall in no event exceed the applicable dollar amount determined in accordance

with the following table (one-half of such amount in the case of a taxpayer whose tax is determined under section 1(c) for the taxable year):

“If the household income pressed as a period of property line) is:	The applicable dollar amount is:
Less than 200\$	\$600
At least 200% but less than 300%	\$1,500
At least 300% but less than 400%	\$2,500.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SA 162. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:
SEC. 504. REVISION OF FUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES.

(a) REVISION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all unobligated balances held by the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 951 note et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are rescinded and no funds appropriated hereafter for such activities shall be expended, except as determined necessary or essential by either such Chairperson or Director, in consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies.

(b) SAVINGS.—The savings from this section shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall use the transferred funds to reduce the budget deficit of the United States.

SA 163. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . PROHIBITION ON FUNDING OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, no Federal funds may be made available for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. or any of the following affiliates of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.:

(1) Planned Parenthood Southeast in Atlanta, Georgia.

(2) Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest in Seattle, Washington.

(3) Planned Parenthood Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona.

(4) Planned Parenthood of Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(5) Planned Parenthood of Greater Memphis Region in Memphis, Tennessee.

(6) Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California in Sacramento, California.

(7) Planned Parenthood Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California.

(8) Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in San Jose, California.

(9) Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties, Inc. in Orange, California.

(10) Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, Inc. in Pasadena, California.

(11) Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest in San Diego, California.

(12) Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties in Santa Barbara, California.

(13) Planned Parenthood: Shasta-Diablo in Concord, California.

(14) Six Rivers Planned Parenthood in Eureka, California.

(15) Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains in Denver, Colorado.

(16) Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc. in New Haven, Connecticut.

(17) Planned Parenthood of Delaware in Wilmington, Delaware.

(18) Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Inc. in Washington, District of Columbia.

(19) Florida Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates in Sarasota, Florida.

(20) Planned Parenthood of Collier County in Naples, Florida.

(21) Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, Inc. in Orlando, Florida.

(22) Planned Parenthood of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida.

(23) Planned Parenthood of South Florida and the Treasure Coast, Inc. in West Palm Beach, Florida.

(24) Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, Inc. in Sarasota, Florida.

(25) Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in Honolulu, Hawaii.

(26) Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho in Yakima, Washington.

(27) Planned Parenthood of Illinois in Chicago, Illinois.

(28) Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region in St. Louis, Missouri.

(29) Planned Parenthood of Indiana, Inc. in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(30) Iowa Planned Parenthood Affiliate League in Des Moines, Iowa.

(31) Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

(32) Planned Parenthood of the Heartland in Des Moines, Iowa.

(33) Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa in Burlington, Iowa.

(34) Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri in Overland Park, Kansas.

(35) Planned Parenthood of Kentucky, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky.

(36) Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region in Cincinnati, Ohio.

(37) Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, Inc. in Houston, Texas.

(38) Planned Parenthood of Northern New England in Williston, Vermont.

(39) Planned Parenthood of Maryland, Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland.

(40) Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts in Boston, Massachusetts.

(41) Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan in Lansing, Michigan.

(42) Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

(43) Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

(44) Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

(45) Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota in St. Paul, Minnesota.

(46) Planned Parenthood of Southwest Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri.

(47) Tri-Rivers Planned Parenthood in Rolla, Missouri.

(48) Planned Parenthood of Montana, Inc. in Billings, Montana.

(49) Planned Parenthood of the Heartland in Omaha, Nebraska.

(50) Planned Parenthood Affiliates of New Jersey in Trenton, New Jersey.

(51) Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area in Trenton, New Jersey.

(52) Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey in Shrewsbury, New Jersey.

(53) Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey, Inc. in Morristown, New Jersey.

(54) Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey.

(55) Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey.

(56) Planned Parenthood of New Mexico, Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(57) Family Planning Advocates of New York State in Albany, New York.

(58) Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Inc. in Hawthorne, New York.

(59) Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson in Utica, New York.

(60) Planned Parenthood of Mid-Hudson Valley, Inc. in Poughkeepsie, New York.

(61) Planned Parenthood of Nassau County, Inc. in Hempstead, New York.

(62) Planned Parenthood of New York City, Inc. in New York, New York.

(63) Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York, Inc. in Watertown, New York.

(64) Planned Parenthood of South Central New York, Inc. in Oneonta, New York.

(65) Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region in Rochester, New York.

(66) Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes in Ithaca, New York.

(67) Planned Parenthood of Western New York, Inc. in Buffalo, New York.

(68) Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Inc. in Albany, New York.

(69) Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina.

(70) Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

(71) Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Ohio in Columbus, Ohio.

(72) Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio.

(73) Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio in Akron, Ohio.

(74) Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio in Toledo, Ohio.

(75) Planned Parenthood of Southeast Ohio in Athens, Ohio.

(76) Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, Inc. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

(77) Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon.

(78) Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon in Eugene, Oregon.

(79) Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette in Portland, Oregon.

(80) Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

(81) Planned Parenthood Association of Bucks County in Warminster, Pennsylvania.

(82) Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania, Inc. in York, Pennsylvania.

(83) Planned Parenthood of Northeast and Mid-Penn in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania.

(84) Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

(85) Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

(86) Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee, Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee.

(87) Texas Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates in Austin, Texas.

(88) Planned Parenthood Association of Cameron & Willacy Counties, Inc. in Brownsville, Texas.

(89) Planned Parenthood Association of Hidalgo County, Inc. in McAllen, Texas.

(90) Planned Parenthood Association of Lubbock, Inc. in Lubbock, Texas.

(91) Planned Parenthood of Central Texas, Inc. in Waco, Texas.

(92) Planned Parenthood of North Texas, Inc. in Dallas, Texas.

(93) Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region in Austin, Texas.

(94) Planned Parenthood of West Texas, Inc. in Odessa, Texas.

(95) Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Central Texas in San Antonio, Texas.

(96) Planned Parenthood Association of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

(97) Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

(98) Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Virginia, Inc. in Hampton, Virginia.

(99) Virginia League for Planned Parenthood in Richmond, Virginia.

(100) Planned Parenthood Public Policy Network of Washington in Seattle, Washington.

(101) Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood in Beltingham, Washington.

(102) Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

SA 164. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:
SEC. 504. DEFUNDING HEALTH CARE REFORM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the provisions of title I and subtitle B of title III of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), and any amendment made by any such provision. The unobligated balances of funds appropriated to carry out such provisions are hereby rescinded.

SA 165. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

SEC. 601. RESCISSION OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2012 FOR CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the portion of all unobligated balances appropriated or otherwise made available to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for use in any of fiscal years 2011 or 2012 are rescinded and no such funds shall be obligated or expended by such Corporation.

SEC. 602. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2012.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 396 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 396) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“Prohibition on Federal Funds After Fiscal Year 2012

“(n) No Federal funds may be made available to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting after fiscal year 2012.”

(b) CORPORATION PROHIBITED FROM ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDS.—Subsection (g) of section 396 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 396(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “subject to paragraph (3)(C),” before “obtain”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) accepting funds from the Federal Government after fiscal year 2012.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 396 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 396) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (k)(3)(A)(iv)(II), by inserting “through fiscal year 2012” after “amounts received”; and

(2) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “through fiscal year 2012” after “every three years thereafter”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and through fiscal year 2012,” after “1989.”

SA 166. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—HAMP TERMINATION ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “HAMP Termination Act of 2011”.

SEC. 602. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 120 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5230) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE NEW ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HOME AFFORDABLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), after the date of the enactment of this subsection the Secretary may not provide any assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program under the Making Home Affordable initiative of the Secretary, authorized under this Act, on behalf of any homeowner.

“(2) PROTECTION OF EXISTING OBLIGATIONS ON BEHALF OF HOMEOWNERS ALREADY EXTENDED AN OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to assistance provided on behalf of a homeowner who, before the date of the enactment of this subsection, was extended an offer to participate in the Home Affordable Modification Program on a trial or permanent basis.”

SA 167. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. REPEAL OF DAVIS-BACON WAGE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law to a wage requirement of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be null and void.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND LIMITATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act but shall not affect any

contract in existence on such date of enactment or made pursuant to invitation for bids outstanding on such date of enactment.

SA 168. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that no funds should be made available for fiscal year 2011 for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to implement, administer, or enforce any statutory or regulatory requirement pertaining to emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons, or perfluorocarbons from any stationary source (as defined in section 111(a)(3) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)(3))) that is promulgated or becomes applicable or effective after January 1, 2011.

SA 169. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 108, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 111, line 25, and insert the following:

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the National Academy of Sciences, in the final report issued by the ‘America’s Energy Future: Technology Opportunities, Risks, and Tradeoffs’ project, and in any subsequent report by the National Academy of Sciences on sustainability, energy, or alternative fuels;

“(D) the National Institutes of Health, in the annual report on the rare diseases research activities of the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2005, and in any subsequent report by the National Institutes of Health on rare diseases research activities;

“(E) the National Academy of Sciences, in the final report issued by the ‘Transit Research and Development: Federal Role in the National Program’ project and the report entitled ‘Transportation Research, Development and Technology Strategic Plan (2006–2010)’ issued by the Research and Innovative Technology Administration of the Department of Transportation, and in any subsequent report issued by the National Academy of Sciences or the Department of Transportation on transportation and infrastructure; or

“(F) the national nanotechnology strategic plan required under section 2(c)(4) of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7501(c)(4)) and in any report issued by the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Technology that focuses on areas of nanotechnology identified in such plan;” and

(2) by adding after paragraph (12), as added by section 111(a) of this Act, the following:

“(13) encourage applications under the SBIR program (to the extent that the projects relate to the mission of the Federal agency)—

“(A) from small business concerns in geographic areas underrepresented in the SBIR program or located in rural areas (as defined

in section 1393(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

“(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

“(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans;

“(D) small business concerns owned and controlled by Native Americans; and

“(E) small business concerns located in a geographic area with an unemployment rate that exceed the national unemployment rate, based on the most recently available monthly publications of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”

(b) STTR PROGRAM.—Section 9(o) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(o)), as amended by section 111(b) of this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

WORLD PLUMBING DAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 100 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) designating March 11, 2011 as “World Plumbing Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 100) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the industry of plumbing plays an important role in safeguarding the public health of the people of the United States and the world;

Whereas 884,000,000 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water;

Whereas 2,600,000,000 people around the world live without adequate sanitation facilities;

Whereas the lack of sanitation is the largest cause of infection in the world;

Whereas in the developing world, 24,000 children under the age of 5 die every day from preventable causes, such as diarrhea contracted from unclean water;

Whereas safe and efficient plumbing helps save money and reduces future water supply costs and infrastructure costs;

Whereas the installation of modern plumbing systems must be accomplished in a specific, safe manner by trained professionals in order to prevent widespread disease, which can be crippling and deadly to the community;

Whereas the people of the United States rely on plumbing professionals to maintain, repair, and rebuild the aging water infrastructure of the United States; and

Whereas Congress and plumbing professionals across the United States and the world are committed to safeguarding public health; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designate March 11, 2011, as “World Plumbing Day”.

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN JAPAN

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 101 which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 101) expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 101) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 101

Whereas at 2:46 pm on March 11, 2011, an earthquake initially reported as measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale, the strongest recorded in more than 100 years in Japan, occurred near the Tohoku region of Northeast Japan, 81 miles off the coast from Sendai City;

Whereas intense shaking could be felt from Tokyo to Kamaishi, an arc of roughly 360 miles;

Whereas the earthquake generated a massive tsunami that caused widespread damage to a swath of the northeast Japanese coastline and traveled across the Pacific Ocean, causing damage to coastal communities as far away as the States of Hawaii, Oregon, and California;

Whereas authorities in Japan confirm at least 2,800 deaths from the earthquake and resulting tsunami, a toll that is expected to rise as many thousands remain missing as of the date of approval of this resolution;

Whereas approximately 400,000 people have been displaced from their homes and are now living in shelters or with relatives;

Whereas within minutes of the earthquake, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration alerted emergency workers in the States of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska that a potentially catastrophic tsunami was heading toward those States and mobilized the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific;

Whereas the earthquake forced the emergency shutdown of 4 nuclear power facilities in Japan, representing a significant loss of electric generation capacity for Japan and necessitating rolling blackouts in portions of Tokyo;

Whereas the earthquake and the resulting tsunami severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, precipitating a loss of power for cooling systems at that

facility and necessitating emergency measures to prevent serious radiation leakages;

Whereas emergency management experts at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are continuing to work with authorities in Japan to address the challenges posed by the damage to the Daiichi nuclear facility;

Whereas international response to the disaster has been swift, with search and rescue teams arriving from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, and China, among other countries;

Whereas the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and its support vessels have deployed to the earthquake region to participate in search and rescue and relief operations;

Whereas elements of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), a United States Agency for International Development Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), and other United States military and civilian personnel have deployed to Japan to render aid and help coordinate United States relief efforts;

Whereas January 19, 2011, marked the 51st anniversary of the signing of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, which has played an indispensable role in ensuring the security and prosperity of both the United States and Japan, as well as in promoting regional peace and stability;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is based upon shared values, democratic ideals, free markets, and a mutual respect for human rights, individual liberties, and the rule of law;

Whereas Japan is among the most generous donor nations, providing billions of dollars of foreign assistance, including disaster relief, annually to developing countries; and

Whereas the Self-Defense Forces of Japan have contributed broadly to global security missions, including relief operations following the tsunami in Indonesia in 2005, reconstruction in Iraq from 2004 to 2006, and relief assistance following the earthquake in Haiti in 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of life resulting from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, 2011;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of this tragedy;

(3) expresses its sympathies to the survivors who are still suffering in the aftermath of this natural disaster;

(4) commends the government of Japan for its courageous and professional response to this natural disaster;

(5) supports the efforts already underway by the United States Government, relief agencies, and private citizens to assist the government and people of Japan in their time of need; and

(6) urges the United States and the international community to provide additional humanitarian assistance to aid the survivors and support reconstruction efforts.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be recognized at the times listed below, as in morning business, for the purpose of giving their maiden speech to the Senate: Senator PORTMAN from my State, following the maiden speech of Senator COATS on Tuesday, March 15, for up to 15 minutes, and Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut at 12 noon, Wednesday, March 16, for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15; that following the prayer and 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 following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein 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 final half; further, that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 493, the small business reauthorization bill; and finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, tomorrow, at 2:15 p.m., Senator COATS will be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes to deliver his maiden speech to the Senate, and following his statement, Senator PORTMAN will be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes to deliver his maiden speech.

Rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the small business jobs bill are possible throughout the day tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MADELYN R. CREEDON, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE MICHAEL NACHT.
ALAN F. ESTEVEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS. (NEW POSITION)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL J. WALSH, UNITED STATES ARMY, TO BE A MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION.
REAR ADMIRAL JONATHAN W. BAILEY, NOAA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEWIS ALAN LUKENS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

PAUL D. WOHLERS, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ARIEL PABLOS-MENDEZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE KENT R. HILL, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

DAN ARVIZU, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

ALAN I. LESHNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

ROBERT C. GRANGER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2014, VICE JAMES R. DAVIS, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, March 14, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

JAMES EMANUEL BOASBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TAYLOR KNABE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Knabe for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Knabe is a 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Knabe for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO ELSIE FURR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Elsie Furr.

Ms. Furr became an integral part of a team that provides state-of-the-art comprehensive cancer care to New York residents when she Joined Queens Hospital Center, as Senior Associate Director, in July 2004. Today, as Administrator of the Queens Cancer Center, she maintains product line responsibility for the Center's management, budget and accounts receivable. Ms. Furr also collaborates on marketing strategies to promote the Queens Cancer Center and its key initiatives.

Queens Cancer Center received a three-year accreditation under Ms. Furr's administrative leadership. This accreditation included designation as a Cancer Center by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. The Queens Cancer Center also played a pivotal role in Queens Hospital Center's major accomplishment: receiving the American Hospital Association-McKesson Quest for Quality Citation of Merit in the spring of 2010.

Prior to joining Queens Hospital Center, Ms. Furr served in various finance management capacities at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn, New York. In her last position, she was responsible for a revenue target of nearly \$50 million in outpatient revenue collections. She successfully met that challenge, as she had always done in prior years. Ms. Furr acquired a wealth of knowledge through these

commitments, a knowledge that serves as the foundation for her effective decision making.

Ms. Furr exudes enthusiasm and vitality when she speaks of her devoted husband, Carlos Furr, and their two lovely children. Her oldest child, Cherette Furr, earned a Master's in Businesses Administration, in 2010, from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Her other son, Brian Furr, is an aspiring musician/spoken word artist; he is currently a junior at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ms. Furr has a Bachelor of Arts degree from York College-City University of New York and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University. She has a passion for collaborating with members of the community and other cancer care organizations to promote the Queens Cancer Center and the wellbeing of others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Elsie Furr.

HONORING FAYAZ SHAWL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Fayaz Shawl, who has been widely recognized as one of the world's foremost interventional cardiologists. He currently serves as Director of Interventional Cardiology at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, and as Professor and Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, DC.

Dr. Shawl, who immigrated to the United States from Kashmir, has performed more than 18,000 cardiac interventional procedures and has written more than 150 important articles, abstracts, editorials, and books. He is also the founder of the "Dr. Fayaz Shawl Philanthropic Foundation," which he founded to treat impoverished patients.

Dr. Shawl's life has been dedicated to restoring to good health those who suffer from cardiovascular disease; he has saved countless lives and improved the quality of life for many more. He has our sincere gratitude for all that he has done to preserve his patients' health and longevity.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Over 15 years has passed since Hillary Clinton famously declared in Beijing that wom-

en's rights are human rights. Since then, we have seen considerable gains in momentum surrounding the importance of women's empowerment, not only as a matter of equality—but importantly—as good development and national security policy. Nevertheless, despite the growing call for women's rights and elevation of their roles in decision-making processes, there is still much more progress to be made.

Today, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by extreme poverty, making up 70% of the world's 1 billion people who live off less than \$1 per day. While women account for over half of the population, they occupy slightly less than 19% of seats in national parliaments on average worldwide. They are vastly more vulnerable in the face of crisis; four of every five people displaced by war or natural disaster are women and children. Women continue to face broad challenges such as access to health care, education and economic opportunities, lack of legal rights and judicial process, and targets of trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence.

While the world's women face daunting obstacles, they are also the most promising and untapped agents of change. What has become increasingly clear is everyone benefits when women and girls have access to equal educational, political, and economic opportunities. When women are free to earn a living—as farmers, entrepreneurs, business owners, etc.—they make their families and communities stronger and more secure. When women and girls have access to educational opportunities, their empowerment allows families and entire communities to flourish and prosper. And evidence shows that when women are empowered to engage in the political process, governments are more effective and responsive to their people.

The world simply cannot achieve lasting peace and prosperity if half of the population is not empowered. For real advancement in women's rights, we must take a comprehensive approach that combats all barriers—physical, economic, socio-cultural, psychological and otherwise—to women's equality.

On this 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, let us celebrate the strides we have made in advancing women's rights, and therefore, human rights and human progress. Let us also reaffirm our commitment to continue these gains until women and men, girls and boys, have equal opportunities to realize their hopes and dreams on every corner of the globe.

I have also included a statement on behalf of Peace X Peace, a nonprofit organization dedicated to lifting women's voices, strengthening women's capacity to connect across divides, promoting leadership and gender equity, and nurturing the global network of peacebuilders.

On this 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, Peace X Peace (www.peacexpeace.org) stands proudly for peace and justice in solidarity with women around the world, especially those who are

• 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.

engaged in the struggle for human rights. We stand with all those who uphold the right of women and men to self-expression, self-determination, and a decent standard of living for themselves and their families. We stand for the efforts of all women to have an equal voice and representation in their communities and nations. We stand for connection, not division: for building bridges of understanding across every divide.

We celebrate the power of mothers, sisters, and daughters to nurture the feminine in themselves and others, to remind us that we win when we win together and we all lose when we practice violence, revenge, demeaning the 'other' and spreading fear of those who are different from ourselves. Women by every name have the same message, and it's our message too: Love and respect one another, and win peace by peaceful means—voice by voice, peace by peace.

VINNY PADILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Vinny Padilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Vinny Padilla is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vinny Padilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Donna Jones.

With an entertainment career that expands over thirty years, Ms. Jones has been using her talents to educate and expose others to the industry. Graduating from high school at the age of fifteen, Ms. Jones set out to take over the world by being the first black traveling journalist. Her career began at NBC (Channel 4), where she worked on a variety of popular shows, such as Saturday Night Live and The Cosby Show.

While attending a Saturday seminar at her alma mater L.I.U., Ms. Jones met Spike Lee, Monty Ross and other members of 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. They introduced her to comedienne/actress Phyllis Yvonne Stickney, who she started managing personally and pro-

fessionally. From there, Ms. Jones found herself negotiating contracts and business deals throughout the entertainment industry. When Ms. Stickney became the opening act for Patti LaBelle, fortune smiled upon Ms. Jones once again and she became part of the LaBelle team, putting together traveling tours.

Being the constant networker, Ms. Jones had continuous opportunities to meet industry leaders and work on large films, TV shows and other projects. Ms. Jones eventually transitioned to work with Virginia Tech University's School of the Arts Management Team. While at Virginia Tech, she also obtained a Master's Degree and produced shows educating the community on the tremendous work of Moms Mabley, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Denmark Vesey.

With her writing, organizational and networking skills, Ms. Jones is always reaching out to others to afford them an opportunity to realize their own dreams and goals. Understanding the impact the industry has on young minds, she formed the organization LEAD Inc. The organization exposes young adults in failing schools to thousands of jobs that support the entertainment business and allows these individuals to put together the parallels between entertainment and education.

Ms. Jones is grateful for her opportunities to work with Congressman EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS, Senator John Sampson, and other local politicians; these experiences increased her ability to help others. Ms. Jones attributes her achievements to God first who orchestrates our journeys and her wonderful family who exposed her early to the business of entertainment. But she is most proud of the person she is and the character they have imparted in her. "When God uses my hands to help others realize their journey, it frees me to complete the journey he has designed for me!"

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Donna Jones.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Family History Month.

The study of family history gives individuals a sense of heritage and sense of responsibility in carrying out a legacy that their ancestors began. The involvement of national, state, and local officials in encouraging genealogy and providing family history records in archives and libraries is an important factor in the successful perception of nationwide participation and support. Our nation's libraries and archives hold treasured records that detail the history of our nation, states, communities, and citizens. Increasingly, individuals across our nation are embarking on genealogical journeys, discovering who their ancestors were and learning how various forces have shaped their pasts.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is a high level of interest in genealogy and family history research throughout the state. Vir-

ginians contribute to our commonwealth's rich cultural diversity and history, and it is important to recognize the positive contributions to our society made by people throughout the history of our commonwealth. Through genealogical research, Virginians are finding renewed interests in history, languages, laws, and social science. Virginia's libraries and archives contain records of history that detail the background of the Commonwealth of Virginia, our communities and our citizens. There are over 250 genealogical and historical societies, archives and libraries throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to assist with family history research.

Several genealogical research organizations and centers exist in Northern Virginia that include hundreds of members, giving significant research opportunities to the communities of Northern Virginia such as Fairfax County, which is an ethnically diverse jurisdiction in which nearly everyone has a family origin from another place. One such organization, the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, has almost 300 paid members with 100 individuals meeting monthly and volunteers assisting the general public at its research center. The Fairfax Genealogical Society has approximately 400 members with over 100 individuals meeting monthly, and holds both a fall and spring conference. Within the Washington area, there are up to 40 lectures, seminars, and conferences in a month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as Family History Month and celebrating the preservation of family and heritage within our communities, states, and nation.

RECOGNIZING THE EXCHANGE CLUB'S CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Exchange Club as it celebrates a centennial of service. The National Exchange Club—a service organization with 700 clubs and over 22,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico—will begin celebrating its 100th anniversary March 27, 2011, with celebration events occurring throughout the year.

To kick-off this milestone, the Exchange Clubs of the Toledo area will host a special ceremony on the date of the anniversary, Sunday, March 27, 2011, with dignitaries, members and guests at the National Headquarters located in the city of Toledo. A display of 100 American Flags on the front lawn will greet visitors who will be able to view a Freedom Shrine featuring a collection of 29 original historic documents chronicling our nation's journey to freedom, including the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and several Presidential addresses.

Founded on March 27, 1911 in Detroit, Michigan by businessmen who wanted to "exchange" ideas, the Exchange Club moved its headquarters to Toledo, Ohio, in 1917. Through a century, its volunteer efforts have supported the needs of the country and of local communities, making it the country's oldest American service organization operating exclusively in the United States.

With a focus on “Americanism” the Exchange Club promotes the grand ideal that our country plays a special role as a beacon of freedom, democracy, equality and inclusiveness. Living the ideal, the Exchange Club’s national project is the Prevention of Child Abuse. Exchange also sponsors activities designed to benefit, award and develop our nation’s youth, prevent crime, serve senior citizens and recognize military and public safety service providers. Even as it remembers a century in practicing the ideals of “Americanism” in voluntary service to all citizens—from those who are vulnerable to those who protect—The Exchange Club moves forward to bring its mission into the next century. We honor the efforts of the members of the Exchange Club for leadership, vision, and compassion. Onward!

WALKER DESHAZER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Walker DeShazer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Walker DeShazer is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Walker DeShazer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA FISHER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Barbara Fisher.

Ms. Fisher was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a homeowner in East New York since 1978 and has successfully nurtured three children (two sons and a daughter) in the community. Today, Ms. Fisher is a grandmother of seven children and a great-grandmother of four.

Ms. Fisher began her postal career in 1966, as a clerk. She is a diligent worker and team player. While taking care of her children, Ms. Fisher took college courses in order to further her career with the Postal Service and successfully worked her way up through several positions. She served as a Level 15 Supervisor, Level 16 Tour Superintendent of Mails, Level 17 General Forman, Level 18 Tour Superintendent and a Level 20 Assistant Manager-Tour Superintendent of Postal Oper-

ations. During her tenure at the United States Post Office, Ms. Fisher also received the following accolades: a Patriotic Service Award, a Certificate of Appreciation for Twenty Years of Service and a Service Award Pin in Commemoration of Twenty Five Years of Service.

As a member of several civic and religious organizations, Ms. Fisher is active within her community. She is involved with the Retirement Division of the National Alliance of Federal Postal Employees and the American Postal Workers Union. She serves as President of the New Jersey Avenue Block Association and was the Vice President of the East New York Homeowners Association. Ms. Fisher received service awards from Assemblyman Darryl Towns and State Senator Thomas Bartosiewicz. In addition to her extensive community involvements, Ms. Fisher is a proud member of the St. Paul Baptist Church.

Ms. Fisher states, “I was always concerned about improving the quality of life on my block and my community. She is a woman who works toward the betterment of others and sets an example for all to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Barbara Fisher.

“WE MUST NOT LEAVE THEM WANTING”

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to put this important piece on early-childhood education into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Its author is Jack Bailer, an outstanding Maryland educator and President of the Judith P. Hoyer Foundation, which promotes early-childhood education for Maryland’s at-risk children.

WE MUST NOT LEAVE THEM WANTING

By Jack Bailer

“For Want of a Nail” is a proverbial verse showing that actions—or inactions—which may seem insignificant can often have significant consequences:

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost.
For want of a horse, the rider was lost.
For want of a rider, the battle was lost.
For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

I suggest we could draw a strong parallel between the nail in the verse and a young child’s having (or not having) the benefit of one or two years’ participation in an early childhood (pre-kindergarten) education program.

Two examples of such programs would be “Head Start” and Maryland’s 25 “Judy Hoyer Family Education Centers,” aka “Judy Centers.” The Judy Centers offer early education for children from birth through five years of age. They also arrange for many other services to be provided to these children and their families—either located on site year-round, or brought in on a visiting basis as needed.

The primary candidates for these programs are three- and four-year-old children who are in home environments often referred to as “economically and/or culturally disadvantaged.” This includes those who get little or no exposure to learning about the world around them, as well as those families where little or no English is spoken.

Lacking experience in an early learning program, these children will enter kindergarten with a very low level of “readiness to learn.”

You may ask, what is the difference between “readiness to learn” and actual learning? Sesame Street provides many examples throughout its episodes. Here are just two:

When Grover gets out of breath repeatedly running back and forth from off in the distance yelling “This is far,” to face-in-the-camera panting “This is NEAR,” the child viewer learns the concept of Near vs. Far.

When we see one of their spots with the song, “One of these things is not like the others; three of these things are kind of the same,” the child learns the concept of Same vs. Different.

If you’d like more examples, ask any early childhood education professional and they’ll give you many, all falling under one or more of seven domains: Social Personal; Language; Mathematical Thinking; Physical Development; Scientific Thinking; Social Studies; The Arts.

For a child who has not had the pre-kindergarten opportunity to achieve a “readiness to learn” so essential for a successful K-12 experience, the sequence of consequences could look something like this:

Grades K-3: For want of having acquired few if any readiness-to-learn experiences prior to kindergarten, a child doesn’t get the full value of what the teacher is saying. And often neither the child nor the teacher realizes that a point made by the teacher is missed because the child is lacking the benefit of an earlier learning experience.

Grades 4-6: For want of the cumulative effects of full value of instruction because of a weaker K-3 foundation, student progress during this period is further diminished—especially in reading comprehension.

Grades 7-8: For want of reading skills which even approach grade level, in the face of an increased need to be able to read to learn, the student slips further behind.

Grades 9-10: For want of reading and learning skills which would make school interesting and satisfying, the student becomes increasingly disconnected from class work and school in general. The student shows up less and less frequently, and even then it is more to be around their friends than to go to class.

Grades 11-12: For want of any further interest in or hope of ever catching up, the student drops out, drifts for a while, maybe works at a menial job, and/or ends up in the criminal justice system.

This discouraging sequence is not an exaggeration. Longitudinal studies have been done—the most notable being the Chicago school system study. That study tracked two groups of students for over 20 years. One group had a strong beginning with the benefit of a pre-kindergarten readiness-to-learn experience. The other group did not.

By the time both groups were well beyond high school age, nearly all of those in the group with early childhood education were clearly on their way to living successful, productive lives. Sadly, most of those in the other group were not.

As for societal and budgetary impacts, one study showed that, for every one dollar spent on pre-kindergarten preparation for learning, seven dollars are saved on government spending for public safety, the justice system, and the prison system.

In the years ahead we will continue to face tough choices among priorities competing for limited public funds. I believe that overarching all of these is the critical need to give every young child a preparation for learning upon which to grow intellectually for the rest of their lives. Among the benefits we get are: A more highly skilled work

force; A highly employable work force; An increase in workers contributing to the tax base; A decreasing percentage of our population who fall into the justice system; A higher quality of life for all.

What can you do to make a difference?

Contact your local school board members and superintendent and urge them to fully fund early childhood (pre-kindergarten) education for all children in your jurisdiction who need it.

Insist that the system determine how many children in your district currently need to be in a readiness-to-learn environment—but are not.

Continue following up to see that, using these data, the school system creates and implements an action plan to reallocate funds as necessary, and to deal with staffing, space, and other issues to get all those children into the system by opening of school next year, or the following year at the latest.

Clearly the increased funding for this will be a challenge. Nevertheless, if our nation is to survive and thrive, we simply must do this. We must not leave behind a single child who may have succeeded in life, but for want of an early childhood education which got them ready to learn. We must not risk the loss of our nation, for want of giving this our most urgent attention.

STEFAN YOUNG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stefan Young for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stefan Young is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stefan Young for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SHARON GOODINE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sharon Goodine.

Sharon Goodine is the president and CEO of J.D.S. Paralegal Services, Inc. She is also the proud mother of two, Dominique and James Goodine.

For nearly 25 years, Sharon relentlessly served the community of Brooklyn, New York. She regularly organized and sponsored the Annual Brooklyn Community Outreach, a program focused on feeding and clothing the

homeless population of Brooklyn. Ms. Goodine also dedicated her time to the empowerment and education of young people; she understands their value and sees the importance of making a positive impact on their lives. Advancing community initiatives eventually required Ms. Goodine to extend her talents to political activism.

Ms. Goodine's work with civic and religious organizations is extensive. She held leadership positions with the Ms. & Mrs. Corporate America National Pageant and the National Council of Negro Women. She also served in membership positions with the Nehemiah Home Association, Community Board Five's Transportation Committee, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the N.A.A.C.P., the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, the United Democratic Club, the National Federation of Paralegals Association, the T.D. Jakes Bishop Circle and the Worthy Matron of Shining Start Chapter O.E.S.

There is not enough that can be said about this mighty woman of God. Today, Ms. Goodine continues to use her talents, contacts, and name recognition to advance charitable causes and community initiatives. Her accomplishments were recognized by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who issued a proclamation declaring May 7, 2005, "Sharon's Day in Brooklyn." Ms. Goodine is also the recipient of many awards, including the following: KISS FM's 2004 Phenomenal Women Award; the Paul Robeson Theatre Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication; the City Council Citation for Exemplary Services to the Community 42nd District; the Mary McLeod Bethune Achiever Award; a Community Service Award by Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr.; and a Community Service Award by "You Can Go To College Committee."

Ms. Goodine attributes her success to her relationship with the Lord. Ms. Goodine's lives by the motto, "Only what you do for Christ will last."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sharon Goodine.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND L. FLYNN
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LIFE-
TIME OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND
DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Raymond L. Flynn in recognition of his lifetime of accomplishment and dedicated public service.

Ray was born and raised in South Boston, Massachusetts by his proud parents Steve and Lillian Flynn. He remains a lifelong resident of South Boston with Kathy, his wife of 46 years, raising their six children and seventeen grandchildren.

Ray worked several jobs as a kid, including selling newspapers at Fenway Park, Braves Field, and the Boston Garden. It was his time at the Boston Garden that led to him becoming a ball boy for the world famous Boston Celtics. As a student at South Boston High School, Ray was named to the Massachusetts All-Scholastic Basketball Team.

After graduating from South Boston High School, Ray attended Providence College and was an honors graduate in 1963 and an Academic All-American; the only Providence College student-athlete to receive such an award.

During his playing career at Providence College, Ray was selected as a member of the NCAA College All-Star Team and was named the Most Valuable Player at the 1963 National Invitational Tournament, which at the time was the most prestigious college basketball tournament in the Nation. The following year, Ray was named captain of the nationally ranked Providence Friars' championship basketball team and was selected to the NCAA 25th Anniversary team as one of the top student-athletes in America. In the culmination of his tremendous collegiate basketball career, on February 20, 2011, Providence College retired Ray's #14 jersey to the rafters at the Dunkin Donut's Center (Providence Civic Center), joining other great Friar Basketball Legends.

Ray served in the U.S. Army and played professional basketball in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1964, Ray made it to the final cut with the World Champion Boston Celtics. Returning to South Boston, Ray founded the South Boston Summer Basketball League which would later become the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League. Ray was proud to have organized the South Boston Men's Softball League and later coached at the South Boston Boy's Club and at Stonehill College.

As an elected official, Ray served as a Massachusetts State Representative from South Boston and Dorchester from 1971 to 1978, Boston City Councilor from 1978 to 1983, Mayor of Boston from 1984 to 1993, President of the United States Conference of Mayors from 1991 to 1992, and was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican) by President William J. Clinton from 1993 to 1997.

Ray Flynn grew up in a family and neighborhood which placed the dignity of a job and hard work as its highest priority.

A long time admirer of Pope John Paul II, Ray is the author of two best-selling books, *The Accidental Pope and John Paul II, A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man*.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take to the floor of the House today to join with Raymond L. Flynn's family, friends, and contemporaries to honor him for his lifetime of accomplishment and his dedicated public service.

SPENCER STAPP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Spencer Stapp for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Spencer Stapp is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Spencer Stapp is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and

develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Spencer Stapp for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA R. MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

Born to Rita and Theodore P. Martin, Ms. Martin is one of seven children. She grew up in a very loving and nurturing environment and was spiritually fortified at St. Charles Borromeo R.C. Church. Ms. Martin was born and raised in Harlem and attended New York City Public Schools throughout her formative educational years. She spent her high school years working as a Senior Counselor at St. Ambrose Community Center, a Unit Clerk Assistant at Cabrini Health Care Center and a teacher's assistant at Chama Child Development Center, where she worked with special needs children.

Upon graduation from Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Ms. Martin enrolled at Long Island University, C.W. Post College. She majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Sociology; she was also a charter member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Kappa Chapter. Due to her academic success, she earned placement on the Dean's List, received the Presidential Merit Award, and garnered multiple graduate studies scholarships. Upon completion of her studies at LIU, Ms. Martin was employed at Downstate Medical Center as the Night Administrator then as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Ms. Martin had a long career in Criminal Justice. She started as a Case Manager, preparing cases for alternatives to incarceration. She later served as an investigator for the Department of Buildings, conducting surveillances to monitor City employees and contractors. For the next 20 years, Ms. Martin served as a member of the New York City Department of Correction. During her academy training, she was one of two officers selected as company leader for her squad. While the inmate population proved to be difficult and unyielding, she was able to work effectively with inmates by utilizing her problem solving and human relations skills to subjugate potentially violent situations. Her diligence, professionalism and interpersonal skills earned recognition from the department's institutional division and gang intelligence unit. Ms. Martin was promoted to Captain in 2001, and provided supervision to a staff of 25 officers; she eventually empowered five officers to take promotional exams and become captains themselves. Ms. Martin was respected by her peers, higher ranking officers and the inmate population, who often sought her advice.

Ms. Martin recently retired from the New York City Department of Correction. Now she likes to work behind the scenes without fanfare. Ms. Martin is tireless in her efforts to assist those in need. She thanks God for all

blessings bestowed upon her and looks forward to continued service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

HONORING JOHN VAN GELS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Van Gels of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. John will be retiring this month after nearly 50 years serving in various positions in the aerospace and defense industry in St. Louis and southern California.

John Van Gels is the quintessential American story. In 1963, when he first joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis he took a job as an hourly employee making \$2.13. Over the years he did his job, worked hard and was rewarded with increased responsibility on the shop floor—holding positions as assistant foreman, foreman, and general foreman on numerous programs.

In 1981, John exchanged his blue collar for a white one and was named Production Manager for McDonnell's Tomahawk cruise missile program. Five years later he was named the Director of Production for the Tomahawk and in 1989 was named vice president of Production Centers—Missile Company.

Most folks would consider nearly 30 years with one company a great career, but not John Van Gels. In 1990, John accepted the position of vice president of Product Center Operations at Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, California. There he oversaw production of the MD-80, MD-90, MD-11 and Trunkliner programs.

In 1997, he returned to St. Louis to assume the position of VP/GM Production Operations and General Services for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. He will finish his career as Senior Site Executive for Boeing Defense, Space & Security—responsible for the day-to-day St. Louis operations.

While his career took him from the floor to the executive office building, John never forgot his time on the floor or the value of the men and women who produce the world's most capable military and commercial aircraft. Throughout his career, John was actively involved in labor negotiations, helping more than once to bridge the gap between blue collar and white.

I've had the pleasure of meeting John on more than one occasion during my time in Congress. His knowledge and dedication to "team" have been a help to both myself and my staff. You don't "replace" a man with the knowledge, experience and character of John Van Gels, you simply adapt, move on and hope to honor his commitment to the industry he poured his professional life into.

Thank you, John. I wish you God's speed and blessing in your retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF BISHOP JOHN RICARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bishop John Ricard after 14 years of serving as Bishop of the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Bishop Ricard entered the priesthood in 1968. He served in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. until 1984, when he was named auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In 1997, Bishop Ricard was named Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, holding that post until his recent retirement. The Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese is home to 64,000 Catholics in 18 North Florida counties. As head of the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese, Bishop Ricard led an impressive expansion of services, including a \$2.8 million Pastoral Center. These expansions increased the ability of the Catholic Church to provide outreach and charitable work throughout North Florida.

Increasing the accessibility of the Catholic Church in North Florida is a lasting achievement; however, Bishop Ricard's lasting legacy as a servant of the Lord is a result of his tireless work fighting poverty around the globe. Bishop Ricard encouraged his local parishes to increase their efforts combating hunger and poverty. Bishop Ricard, however, is not simply a man of words. He practiced what he preached. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Northwest Florida area in 2004, Bishop Ricard helped to rebuild homes destroyed during the hurricane. Bishop Ricard also worked to ensure that working class families had the support necessary to avoid becoming victims of homelessness. He led the effort to create the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provided affordable homes for working class families.

Bishop Ricard was also a leader in the global community. He served as president of Catholic Relief Services, an international charitable organization that delivers food, water and other essential items to the developing world. Additionally, Bishop Ricard served as head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of International Justice and Peace. In these capacities, he traveled around the globe, frequently to famished and war-torn countries, to preach the gospel and help the local community build a better future.

Spiritual leaders impact their communities in numerous ways, providing spiritual and emotional guidance, as well as charitable work. Bishop Ricard's dedication to the Lord ensured that his outreach expanded far beyond the confines of his local parishes and diocese, and his legacy will endure far beyond the diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate Bishop Ricard on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him all the best as he continues to walk in the light of the Lord.

VENISSA AUGUSTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Venissa Augustin for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Venissa Augustin is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Venissa Augustin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISA JOSEFINA MORRIS
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Louisa Josefina Morris on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Ms. Morris was born on January 17, 1911, in Colon, Panama. Her parents are Elmina Cox and Charles Watts; but, she was raised by her grandparents, Ella and Ernest Beury. Her grandparents were important role models, fostering her development and growth with a loving and caring home.

Ms. Morris married Irving Benjamin Morris. Together they had five children: Irene Walker, Davina Morris, Olivia Aikens, Leo Morris, and Elisa Morris.

In 1958, Ms. Morris relocated to the United States to work at a local hospital. After becoming a citizen five years later, her children and husband followed. Today, all of Ms. Morris' children are adults. She helped raise multiple generations of her family and is now a great grandmother.

Ms. Morris lived a full life in the past 100 years. She witnessed the events of World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement. She experienced the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, President John F. Kennedy, and President Barack Obama. Ms. Morris has seen it all and did what many are unable to.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Louisa Josefina Morris.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK
HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the millions of veterans who have served our country with honor. As the son of a WWII veteran, I understand the sacrifices these men and women have made for our country. We must all remember that we need to find ways to say thank you year round. I am always challenged to find an adequate way to show my appreciation to these modern-day heroes. No matter how heartfelt and sincere our "thank you" is, it can never be expressed enough. Today, I come to you Mr. Speaker, with a resolution that was passed unanimously by the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate. This resolution honors the dedication of the new North Carolina Veterans Park in Fayetteville, NC, the most military friendly city in America, for its grand opening on July 4, 2011. The resolution reads:

[North Carolina Senate Resolution 85, Feb. 21, 2011]

A SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK.

Whereas, the citizens of North Carolina have a long and proud history, dating to this country's birth, of paying special honor and respect to its sons and daughters who protect our country's freedoms; and

Whereas, the lands of North Carolina and our country are enjoyed by all its citizens due to the unending efforts and sacrifices made by all of our veterans; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to be the home to Cherry Point Air Station, 8 Charlotte Air National Guard, Camp Lejeune, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Station, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to call itself the most military friendly state in America and, as a state, North Carolina has one of the highest percentages of veterans in America; and

Whereas, July 4, 2011, will mark the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park; and

Whereas, the purpose of the North Carolina Veterans Park is to honor all North Carolina veterans and be a composition of objects, spaces, and images that symbolize gratitude, reflection, celebration, and education, and commemorate achievement, service, dedication, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, and is adjacent to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, which is a part of the United States Army Museum System, providing an exciting educational experience and preserving the legend of airborne and special operation forces; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park will consist of seven water features and public art representing participation of individuals from across the State; and

Whereas, the hands of 100 veterans were cast to honor and represent every county in North Carolina and are displayed in this park's Wall of Oath; and

Whereas, soil from each of the State's 100 counties will be included in the construction of the columns in the park; and

Whereas, public art sculptures in the public plaza at the North Carolina Veterans Park signify our veterans' commitment, courage, dedication, heroism, sacrifice, service, and strength, as well as the incredible talents of our State's artist; and

Whereas, the city of Fayetteville has directed the design and construction of the North Carolina Veterans Park to meet or exceed all guidelines and guidance provided by a large segment of the veteran population, including Content Committee members from all five branches of the military service; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

SECTION 1. The Senate joins the citizens of this State in expressing its pride and gratitude to the veterans of this State for their service, dedication, and sacrifice in protecting the freedoms of this country and designates July 4, 2011, as "North Carolina Veterans Park Day."

SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

Mr. Speaker, the storyline of the Veterans Park reads:

From the soils of North Carolina,
You left your families and homes
With purpose to serve your country.
In service, you made sacrifices.
You are our veterans.
This is your place to reflect on and
Share your experience.
To feel pride in your service,
Bond with fellow veterans, and heal.
Here, may you find support and inspiration
To live your lives today.
The people of North Carolina
Honor your service and welcome you home.

May all our veterans continue to be honored with the utmost regard, both those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country as well as those who are still with us who continue to carry the burdens and scars of war every day.

TANYA ESTRADA
HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tanya Estrada for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tanya Estrada is a 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tanya Estrada for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JUNE
MONTAGUE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rev. June Montague.

Rev. Montague is a woman who dares to make a difference. She entered ministry in 1978, in an era when men dominated the ministerial offices and women were denied the opportunity to preach from the pulpit or hold spiritual leadership offices. Despite this adversity, she preached the word with faith, boldness and power, paving the way for other women with similar callings.

Rev. Montague was baptized and raised in the Methodist church, serving in the choir, teaching Sunday school and counseling young people. She was called to the Deliverance ministry in the early 1970s, under the leadership of the late Apostle Arturo Skinner. Rev. Montague sat at the Apostle's feet and was nurtured in the way of holiness and the ministry of Deliverance.

Anointed by God to carry on the vision of the Deliverance ministry, Rev. Montague organized and founded the United Pentecostal Deliverance Temple Church in 1980. The ministry started in a basement and then reached into the streets and schools. The congregation outgrew its first store front building at 1125 Church Avenue, Brooklyn (1980–1988) and relocated to 75 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn (1988–1991). The need to have adequate space to worship further led the Church to its present site, 810 East 49th Street, Brooklyn (1991–present). The Church is dedicated to providing the community with exposure to, and instruction in, the teachings of Christ.

Rev. Montague received her Biblical training at the Bethel Bible Institute and the New York School of Bible. Her achievements include honorary doctorate degrees in Divinity and Humane Letters. She received awards for outstanding achievement in Church and Christian Development and International Evangelist. Rev. Montague was also awarded Pastor of the Year by the Church Women United.

Rev. Montague has been on the battlefield for over thirty years, sharing the gospel across the globe, such as London, South Africa, Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua and Costa Rica. Because of her faith and labor of love, thousands have received salvation, healing, and liberation from the captive of their souls. She has a unique talent for breaking down the revealed word in terms that everyone can understand, whether it be the learned or the unlearned.

Another chapter of this book is about to be written. Rev. Montague vows to continue the Deliverance ministry. She acknowledging that greater works are on the horizon, knowing that she was called to ministry for such a time as this; a time of widespread theological and moral apostasy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Rev. June Montague.

INTRODUCTION ON THE BILL: TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF JUDGES BY EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE TO REDACT SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THEIR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, every day, our federal judges make decisions in cases that directly and personally affect lives. They may find someone guilty and sentence that person to a lengthy prison sentence. They may rule against someone for thousands of dollars. Or, they may dismiss a medical malpractice case. Chicago district judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz did the latter and tragically, shortly thereafter, the plaintiff in that case went to her home and murdered her husband and mother in 2005.

One way a disgruntled litigant can learn of a federal judge's home address and avenge a ruling is by requesting a copy of the judge's financial disclosure report under the Ethics in Government Act. Information in financial disclosure reports can reveal the filer's or a family member's residence or regular presence at an unsecured location such as a spouse's place of employment. Fortunately, Section 105(b)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act (5 U.S.C. App), allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a judge's or judiciary employee's financial disclosure report in circumstances where release of the information could endanger the filer or the filer's family.

The Judicial Conference uses its redaction authority carefully. Under the regulations that the Judicial Conference promulgated in accordance with the statute, there must be a clear nexus between a security risk and the information for which redaction is sought, before redaction will be permitted. As required by the statute, the Judicial Conference reports to Congress annually on the number of redactions and the reasons for them, usually involving over 200 judges and judicial employees per year.

This redaction authority is set to expire on December 31, 2011, pursuant to the "Court Security Improvement Act of 2007" (Pub. L. No. 110–177). Allowing this redaction authority to sunset will create tremendous security risks to judges and judiciary employees. Consequently, I am introducing legislation today which would extend the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in judges' financial disclosure reports. Where we can prevent tragedies such as Judge Lefkowitz's from happening, I believe we should. As our federal judges uphold the law, they should not have to worry about whether they or their family members will be harmed.

I, together with my good friends, Representative COHEN and Representative HANK JOHNSON, ask Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critical and timely legislation. We fervently hope that Congress will act expeditiously on it.

STEPHANIE SCOTT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie Scott for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephanie Scott is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephanie Scott for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO HATTIE RUTH
PERSONS-NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Hattie Ruth Persons-Nelson.

Hattie was born on July 20, 1938, in Beuna Vista, Georgia. Her parents are the late Woodward Thomas Person and Hattie Williams-Persons. During her adolescence, Hattie loved to laugh and had a zest for learning; she completed two grades in a single school year.

Hattie migrated to New York City in 1959. She resided on Washington Avenue with her aunt and uncle, Fannie and Elder Williams. Her uncle was the founding pastor of the Evergreen Church of God in Christ, where Hattie was a dedicated member for several years. In 1972, she joined the New Canaan Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Rev. A.L. Cunningham and the current pastor, Rev. Richard J. Lawson.

Hattie's dedication to the Lord and her church compelled her to work tirelessly in pursuit of the crown she will receive in heaven. In her service at Evergreen Church of God in Christ, she served as a trustee, data entry secretary, hospitality committee president, Christian councilmember, Women's Day Committee secretary, and special projects organizer. At New Canaan Baptist Church, Hattie was senior choir president, Georgia/Alabama Club president, Traveling Mass Choir member, Matron Mission Club member, Women's Day chairperson, Pastor's Aide Club member and church clerk.

Hattie loved organizing projects and was dedicated to upholding the legacy of the African-American experience. She was involved in extensive community activities: yearly Black History Month celebrations, youth with educational trips to Washington, D.C., literature handouts, yearly family reunions, fundraising,

and various events designed to bring family and friends together (including her famous Reach One, Teach One program). Hattie can only be described as a passionate, purposeful, ambitious, and charitable person. She was always willing to lend a hand in support of a cause, whether large or small.

Hattie was an employee of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in New York for thirty years before retiring. Hattie was always dedicated to the service of her community. She will be dearly missed by all who worked with her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Hattie Ruth Persons-Nelson.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,164,360,361,278.80.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,525,934,614,985.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECOGNIZING RENA GOOLSBY ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Rena Goolsby upon the occasion of her 100th birthday. Ms. Goolsby has lived a long life full of service to her community and to her family, and I am humbled to recognize her today.

Rena Allene Howard was born in Montgomery, Alabama on March 14, 1911. She was the third of five children to John and Genella Howard. In 1928, at the age of 17, Ms. Goolsby married her sweetheart, Walter Goolsby. The two remained married for 57 years until his passing in 1985. She is the matriarch of her family, raising two children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

For many years, Ms. Goolsby was an integral member of Coosada Baptist Church, and she was granted Lifetime Member status in the Garden Club of Millbrook, Alabama. She is also a member of the Red Hat Society.

Mr. Speaker, Rena Goolsby is valued member of our community, a true "Southern Lady", and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of her life. My wife Vicki and I wish her a happy birthday and her entire family all the best.

SHANYN SPRINGFIELD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shanyn Springfield for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Shanyn Springfield is a 12th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shanyn Springfield for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Gloria Thomas.

Gloria Thomas was born and raised in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York. She currently resides in the East New York community, where she has lived for 35 years. Ms. Thomas is a graduate of Manual Training High School and later attended New York Community College. She has a certificate in Advanced Church Ministries from the Evangelical Training Association.

For over twenty years, Ms. Thomas worked as a payroll manager for Robert B. Samuels Electrical Contractors. She retired in 2000 and became a volunteer at the Penn Wortman Senior Center. On November 15, 2002, she became the President of the Penn Wortman Voices and later served as the program committee chairperson as well (June 2004–2010). As part of her duties, Ms. Thomas coordinated programs to entertain, inspire, and empower seniors. She is currently President of the FGC Penn Wortman Voices, where she and other choir members sing songs of inspiration at various events.

Ms. Thomas attends Universal Baptist Church where Reverend Dr. James R. Green, Jr. is the pastor. She has been a member of this church for over 20 years. Prior to her retirement, she served in the Food and Clothing Ministry, Celestial Choir and the Liturgical Dance Ministry. She is committed to securing a better quality of life for seniors. As a newly recruited board member of the East New York Council for the Aging, Inc., her primary goal is to continue to support the mission of providing adequate programs and services for seniors.

Ms. Thomas was featured in "Remembered Lives," Our Times Press, December 2005. On May 20, 2006, the East New York Interagency Council for the Aging honored Ms. Thomas for

her outstanding service and commitment to seniors. She also received a Beacon of Hope Award on August 5, 2006, from the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. for her contribution and diligent work in the East New York community.

Ms. Thomas remains a committed member of the community. She still works closely with the New York Branch of the NAACP, the Local 3 IBEW Retirees Association (Brooklyn Chapter); and the East New York Interagency Council for the Aging. She thanks God for the energy and strength to continue her work in the community.

Ms. Thomas has a daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Paul Gary. She also has a granddaughter, Imani Safiya Gary, whom she loves dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Gloria Thomas.

RECOGNIZING SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and support Taiwan's bid for effective participation in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Taiwan has experienced rapid economic growth and industrialization, and its technological advancement has played a significant role in the global economy. While Taiwan is a major world economy with 23 million residents, it is only recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO) under the name of "Industrial Technology Research Institute" (ITRI) by the UNFCCC. This NGO status only allows Taiwan to partake in UNFCCC side events, which is neither effective nor appropriate.

This listing goes against the Convention's spirit and dampens the enthusiasm and expectations of the 23 million people of Taiwan. Taiwan's inability to participate in either the discussions over the post-Kyoto mechanism or the international carbon market has serious consequences affecting the welfare of the people and the development of Taiwan's industries.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, I know the value of the bilateral relationship and hope to increase relations with Taiwan's cooperation and participation in the UNFCCC. I hope that the leadership of the UNFCCC will soon invite Taiwan to participate in an official capacity as the World Health Assembly has invited Taiwan to participate in its activities as an official observer in 2009 and 2010. Taiwan, since the inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou in 2008, has been a responsible member of the global community and deserves to be invited to the activities of the UNFCCC and other international conventions and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's participation in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change.

YEKATERINA MOROZOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yekaterina Morozova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yekaterina Morozova is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yekaterina Morozova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO FAY DOUGLAS-LANE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Fay Douglas-Lane for her service to and excellence in the practice of nursing.

Fay was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Her extensive nursing career began at the University Hospital of the West Indies' School of Nursing, where she received certification in both medical and surgical wards. Throughout her life, Fay provided critical services to her community as a nurse, mentor and volunteer to those in need.

Fay began her career in 1983, as an Operating Room nurse at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. For nearly nine years she served in this capacity. She left Downstate Medical Center for a brief period, but returned in 1994. When Fay returned, she served in supervisory roles until her promotion to Associate Nursing Director in 2003. Fay has a unique understanding of perioperative nursing; her expertise was instrumental to the healthcare team at SUNY. Among her accomplishments, Fay championed and facilitated the Team STEPPS Program, an evidence-based teamwork system designed to improve quality, safety and efficiency for perioperative services. Fay retired from Downstate Medical Center on December 31, 2010.

Fay has always been committed to achieving excellence in the practice of nursing. She was involved in the Brooklyn Chapter of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, including two separate terms as President. She also served as mentor to numerous Registered Nurses, Operating Room Technicians, Nursing Assistants, and Resident Physicians.

Fay was not consumed by hospital work. She devoted time to assisting teachers and

staff at P.S. 397, a children's elementary school in Brooklyn, NY, and has been actively involved in the Parent Teacher Association of Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. Fay also spent significant time volunteering. In 1986, she worked with a team of doctors and nurses to care for the poor and needy in Jamaica, West Indies. In 1998, she contributed her time and service to the People United to Save Our Children Community Choir.

Fay has a strong commitment to her faith. In March of 2000, she received a certificate for Outstanding Christian Services from Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn. In December 2010, she was ordained a deacon at Berean Baptist Church, where she has been a member for over twenty years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Fay Douglas-Lane.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Association of Parliamentarians. I would also like to welcome the Robert Rocks in Cleveland biennial District Four Conference to Cleveland, Ohio. The district four region consists of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada.

The National Association of Parliamentarians advocates the studying and teaching of the philosophies and principles of various legislative bodies. The Association, based in Independence, Missouri, is currently entering its 80th year of existence, a monumental occasion for the organization.

In addition, the current congregation of the fourth district is only the fourth time the conference has taken place in the state of Ohio. This year marks the first time that Cleveland has been chosen as the host city.

The goal of this conference is to educate the public about meeting management and various other parliamentary procedures. Educational workshops will be open to the public and the election of a new district director will take place.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, join me in honor of the National Association of Parliamentarians as they gather in Cleveland, Ohio for their District Four Conference. This conference is a benefit to both those in attendance and the community as a whole.

HONORING EBBY HALLIDAY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dallas legend Ebby Halliday on her 100th Birthday.

On March 9, Dallas legend Ebby Halliday will celebrate a century of life. From her humble beginning on a farm in Kansas where she

started selling tins of Clovertine Salve at age eight to her successful real estate company, which is now one of the largest privately owned real estate firms in the United States, Ebby has always reached for the stars and inspired others to do the same.

From her first job after graduation selling hats, to the real estate mogul we all know and love today, Ebby Halliday truly personifies the American Dream. Not only has she revolutionized the real estate business with her savvy, her wit, and her charm—Ebby's dedication to serving her community has made her a household name and a true Dallas treasure. Known to many as "The First Lady of Real Estate," I am privileged to call her friend.

Happy Birthday Ebby, and thank you for the many contributions you have made to the State of Texas and our nation over the past 100 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, as a 5th generation Kansan and proud alum, I would like to offer ecstatic congratulations to the University of Kansas Jayhawks.

This weekend, the KU men's basketball team charged their way to a 2nd consecutive Big 12 Tournament Championship and clinched their 7th straight regular season Big 12 title. As Coach Larry Brown said of Kansas: "There's no better place to coach, there's no better place to go to school, there's no better place to play."

Thanks Jayhawks for again proving those words true. As the proud and mighty Jayhawk Nation gets ready for the big dance, I would like to wish Coach Bill Self and his team the best of luck in the tournament. ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK! Go KU!

REMEMBERING ARVIN DALE SHORT, M.D.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Arvin Short, who passed away on March 3. For decades, Dr. Short provided a public service to the North Texas community through his work in General Surgery.

Arvin Dale Short was born on September 21, 1942 in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Dr. Short graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1969, after completing his undergraduate work at Southwestern State College. After completing his internship and residency in General Surgery at the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio, he earned his certification from the American Board of Surgery in 1975.

Dr. Short was recruited to practice surgery in Denton by my father, the late H.M. Burgess, and the two men formed a lifelong bond. No matter what the circumstance, Dr. Short was

always available with an encouraging word or fresh perspective. Since 2004, he has served as the Medical Director of the Wound Center at Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital, where he also served on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007.

Dr. Short has an established career which included serving as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Lewisville Memorial Hospital, Flow Memorial Hospital and Denton Community Hospital. Committed to his field, he was affiliated with the J.B. Aust Surgical Society, the Texas Medical Society and served as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, as well as President of the Denton County Medical Society.

Dr. Short's legacy extends beyond his contributions as a surgeon. His support of the arts went beyond his interests in reading, music, and history. Arvin Short was also an accomplished writer, poet and playwright. His works include the published novel, "Reckoning", the award winning play, "The Call Room," and numerous other short stories, novels and poems. A philanthropist, Dr. Short served on the Board of Directors of the Denton Community Theatre and received the Greater Denton Arts Council Community Arts Recognition Award in 1991.

Through all his service as surgeon, artist, and philanthropist, Dr. Short was known first as a family man. His real love being his wife Carol, his sons, his daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to join his family, friends and colleagues in honoring the life of Dr. Arvin Short. His legacy as family man, surgeon and artist is one that will endure for years to come. I am honored to have known him and represented him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING ELLIOT L. LUONI

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Elliot L. Luoni of Massachusetts. Elliot celebrates his 100th birthday today, March 14.

An avid musician and former professional drummer, Elliot has entertained young and old on cruise ships across the Atlantic. His sharp talent has given him a place in history; he has performed with the likes of Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra.

A hero of his community, he was present at the infamous Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, Massachusetts on November 28, 1942 when disaster struck. Tragically, 492 people lost their lives in a building fire that night—many of them young soldiers celebrating a night off duty. Without hesitation, Elliot organized transportation for the injured to the nearest hospital. The families of the Cocoanut Grove fire survivors have Elliot to thank for his selflessness.

No one appreciates Elliot more than his three children, nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren—sweet reminders of his fifty-five year marriage to the lovely Elsa Luoni.

I extend my happiest wishes to Elliot on his 100th birthday, and I wish him the best of health and happiness in many more to come.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH MELENICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joseph Melenick, a 17 year-old man who has dedicated his adolescence to finding a cure for Crohn's disease.

Five years ago, Joe was diagnosed with Crohn's disease, a disorder that causes swelling in the digestive tract, severe pain, and gastrointestinal complications. Since being diagnosed, Joe has remained committed to raising money to find a cure for the disease, to helping others with his condition, and to keep fighting for the benefit of others.

On his twelfth birthday, Joe decided to host a fundraiser at a bowling alley, with the hope of raising \$1,000 for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation for research. With over 100 participants in the fundraiser, Joe well surpassed his goal and raised approximately \$4,700. Since that first fundraiser, he has made this an annual event and has raised close to \$50,000.

In addition to his annual bowling fundraiser, Joe often speaks to groups in the Cleveland area about the disease and how he copes. His presentations show the group that they are not alone in battling this terrible disease, and that there is hope for a cure.

Joe has facilitated other events to raise awareness and gather donations for the foundation in collaboration with a team he formed, called the "GI Joes." Events include a 2-mile walk around Progressive Field with the Bay High School drum line and the GI Joes. The team has collected sponsorships from local companies, friends, families and concerned citizens.

As a result of his hard work and dedication to finding a cure for the disease, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation chose him as the 2010 Honored Hero for the Cleveland area. In addition, Joe was recently named one of the top two youth volunteers for 2011 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Joseph Melenick as he strives to raise funds for finding a cure for Crohn's disease, and for acting as a role model for Cleveland's young people.

THE PREVENT LOCKOUT OF
ATHLETES THIS YEAR ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce H.R. _____, the PLAY Act. This bill will ensure that a congressionally granted antitrust immunity is never again misused to build up an improper "war chest" to gain leverage in a football lockout and put our nation's most popular sport at risk.

An independent United States District Judge recently found that the NFL acted in bad faith by negotiating broadcast contracts ensuring the league would be paid even if it locked out players. In other words, the league manipulated broadcast negotiations to maximize its ability to force and win a lockout, and did so—

in the Court's words—"to advance its own interests and harm the interests of the players."

Those flawed negotiations were conducted under the protective umbrella of the antitrust immunity given to football by the Congress. Accordingly, the PLAY Act would strip this immunity from professional football so it can never be misused in this way again.

FURTHER BACKGROUND

The Sports Broadcast Act of 1961. Under the Sports Broadcast Act of 1961, the four major United States sports currently enjoy immunity from our antitrust laws so they can negotiate league wide broadcast contracts. Without this immunity, the antitrust laws could limit league competitors from jointly negotiating these deals. And potentially anti-competitive provisions of the broadcast pacts such as overly extended blackout territories could be subject to antitrust scrutiny.

Broadcast revenue is critical to the National Football League and its players. According to recent court testimony of Commissioner Roger Goodell, "broadcast contracts generate approximately half of the NFL's total revenues"—or over \$4 billion per year. This revenue is critical to the players as well as the league and its owners, as it forms the heart of the shared revenue pool that is used for health and other benefits, as well as salaries.

Congress—and the House Judiciary Committee in particular—has long been vigilant in the exercise of its antitrust jurisdiction regarding the economic impact of major sports business on America's communities, in particular taking action in the wake of a professional sports work stoppage.

In 1994, following the baseball strike, the Judiciary Committee under Chairman Brooks held hearings and passed legislation partially repealing baseball's antitrust exemption, which culminated four years later in the enactment of the Curt Flood Act. In 1996, after the Browns left Cleveland, the Committee, under Chairman Hyde, again considered legislation and held antitrust hearings. In 2001, under Chairman Sensenbrenner, after Major League Baseball announced the possible contraction and elimination of the Minnesota Twins franchise, we conducted hearings on antitrust legislation that I introduced.

Bad Faith Contract Re-negotiations. In May 2008, the National Football League re-negotiated its contracts with the major broadcasters who televise professional football. While the particulars of these negotiations varied, in all or most cases, the district court's opinion describes how the league insisted on provisions that would shield it from the economic impact of a lock out.

In response, the National Football League Players' Association (at the time, the certified bargaining representative for NFL Players), petitioned the United States District Court overseeing the league's collective bargaining relationship with its players for a declaration that the league's approach to the negotiations violated its contractual duty to maximize total revenue to the league and the players each season.

On March 3, 2011, United States District Judge Doty, who is expert in NFL-related matters and has handled league/player disputes for roughly twenty years, issued an order agreeing with the players' contention. Judge Doty explained: "The NFL sought to renegotiate broadcast contracts to ensure revenue for

itself in the event of a lockout. The record shows that the NFL undertook contract renegotiations to advance its own interests and harm the interests of the players. . . . Here, the NFL renegotiated the broadcast contracts to benefit its exclusive interest at the expense of, and contrary to, the joint interests of the NFL and the Players. This conduct constitutes a design to seek an unconscionable advantage and is inconsistent with good faith.”

A Lockout Harms All Americans. These bad faith negotiations—carried out under the protective umbrella of the Sports Broadcast Act’s antitrust immunity—are of particular concern given the great harm to our national economy a lockout would likely cause. One recent report states that a single NFL game generates over \$20 million in local economic activity—a total of over \$5.1 billion each year in NFL and peripheral businesses. Over 100,000 stadium workers would be directly affected by a lockout, and undoubtedly vastly more across different segments of the economy that are connected to the football industry.

A Congressionally Granted Immunity Should Not Be Used to Gain Leverage in a Lock Out. A business that intentionally misuses a Congressionally granted immunity to build up an improper “war chest” and gain leverage of collective bargaining negotiations should not be allowed to retain such immunity.

The PLAY Act thus removes professional football from the protection of this immunity.

HONORING GREEN BAY PACKERS
WIDE RECEIVER GREG JENNINGS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Green Bay Packers wide receiver Greg Jennings. Jennings, a native of my district from Kalamazoo, Michigan, was a star for the Packers in their recent 31–25 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV.

Jennings began his football career playing for the Kalamazoo Central High School Maroon Giants. There, he was not only recog-

nized for his accomplishments on the gridiron, but also as a basketball player, runner, and long jumper.

After high school, Jennings went on to play football at Western Michigan University where his athletic accomplishments continued to soar and he won the 2005 MAC Offensive Player of the Year Award. In 2006, Jennings was selected in the second round of the NFL Draft and signed to the Green Bay Packers. During Super Bowl XLV on February 6, 2010, he scored two touchdowns that helped to secure a Super Bowl victory for the Packers.

In his private life off the field, Jennings is a family man and a person of faith who continues to give back, including his work through The Greg Jennings Foundation. He is truly a model athlete and a treasure to southwest Michigan. True to his high school’s moniker, Greg has truly been a Giant, both on and off the field. It is no wonder that the city of Kalamazoo proclaimed March 14th as Greg Jennings Day.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
JUSTICE NIAL FENNELLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the Honorable Justice Nial Fennelly, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland, to Cleveland as a guest of honor at the Collins and Scanlon annual St. Patrick’s Day Party on March 17th, 2011.

A graduate of University College Dublin with a degree in economics, the Honorable Justice Fennelly completed his studies of law at King’s Inns, and was formally called to the Bar in 1964. He practiced law from 1966 to 1995, becoming Senior Counsel, working in commercial and constitutional law with a specialty in European Community law.

Justice Fennelly became the first Irish lawyer to be appointed Advocate General at the European Court of Justice in 1995, and served in this capacity until 2000. His rulings dealt with issues regarding the free movement of persons, goods and services, as well as tax and competition.

In 2000, he was appointed to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland, where he has served since. In addition to these achievements, he is also a Bencher of the Honorable Society of King’s Inns and of the Middle Temple in London. He is President of the Irish Society for European Law, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of European Law at Trier in Germany, and is a former Chairman of the Irish Centre for European Law.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in welcoming our distinguished guest from Ireland, the Honorable Justice Nial Fennelly, to Cleveland, as the city celebrates St. Patrick’s Day.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF WHITE ROCK LAKE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 100th anniversary of White Rock Lake.

As Dallas began to grow in population during the early 1900s, the availability of water became an increasing problem. In 1909, the City of Dallas awarded a contract to build a dam on White Rock Creek which, two years later, led to the creation of what is known today as White Rock Lake.

Over the last century, White Rock Lake has not only provided essential water resources to one of the fastest growing areas of the country, it has also become an ideal place for outdoor activities for Dallas residents and visitors alike. Often referred to as “the jewel of Dallas,” White Rock Lake is home to the Dallas Arboretum and maintains numerous playgrounds and trails for hiking, running, and biking. Like many Dallas residents, I enjoy spending quality time at this lake with my family, and am proud to have White Rock Lake in my district.

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 15, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 16

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on Libya.
SVC-217

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations from AMVETS, Jewish War Veterans, Military Officers Association of America, Gold Star Wives, Blinded Veterans Association, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Fleet Reserve Association.
SDG-50

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold a joint hearing with the Task Force on Government Performance to examine modernizing performance, focusing on using the new framework.
SD-608

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the state of online consumer privacy.
SR-253

Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the report to the President from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.
SD-406

Finance
To hold hearings to examine health reform, focusing on lessons learned during the first year.
SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Organizational business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments and any pending nominations.
SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Supporting Employee Competency and Updating Readiness Enhancements for (SECURE) Facilities Act of 2011", S. 550, to improve the provision of assistance to fire departments, an original bill entitled, "Electronic Rulemaking Improvement Act of 2011", S. 531, to amend section 5542 of

title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay, S. 300, to prevent abuse of Government charge cards, S. 498, to ensure objective, independent review of task and delivery orders, S. 191, to direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications, S. 514, to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service, and the nominations of Heather A. Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.
SD-342

10:15 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph M. Torsella, of Pennsylvania, to be Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State.
SD-419

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of the Navy.
SD-192

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-124

Aging
To hold hearings to examine securities lending in retirement plans.
SH-216

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Northern Ireland, focusing on justice in individual cases and accountability for past abuses by security services in the region.
210, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on the updated National Intelligence Estimate on Iran and other related matters.
SVC-217

Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on Afghanistan, focusing on progress and expectations.
SVC-217

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bernice Bouie Donald, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, J. Paul Oetken, and Paul A. Engelmayer, both to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.
SD-226

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine current global investment trends in clean energy technologies and the impact of domestic policies on that investment.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine recouping improperly paid Federal assistance in the aftermath of disasters.
SD-342

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), focusing on evaluating returns on taxpayer investments.
SD-538

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
Green Jobs and the New Economy Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine the "Clean Air Act" and jobs.
SD-406

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine popular uprisings in the Middle East, focusing on the implications for U.S. policy.
SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine health insurance exchanges and ongoing state implementation of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act".
SD-430

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 216, to increase criminal penalties for certain knowing and international violations relating to food that is misbranded or adulterated, S. 222, to limit investor and homeowner losses in foreclosures, S. 410, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, and the nominations of James Michael Cole, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Edward Milton Chen, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, John J. McConnell, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Goodwin Liu, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Kevin Hunter Sharp, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Roy Bale Dalton, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Claire C. Cecchi, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science and Space Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine investing in Federal research and development.
SR-253

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Food and Drug Administration.

closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program.

APRIL 5
9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

Budget
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Heather A. Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

MARCH 29
2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense efficiencies initiatives.

APRIL 6
10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Allison A. Hickey, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits and Steve L. Muro, of California, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SR-418

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Bruce Shear, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Kurt Walter Tong, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, both of the Department of State.

MARCH 30
10:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations from Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Wounded Warrior Project, Vietnam Veterans of America, The Retired Enlisted Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War.

APRIL 7
9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Transportation Command and U.S. Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-106

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine catastrophic preparedness, focusing on if FEMA is ready for the next big disaster.

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for the National Park Service.

APRIL 12
9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SH-219 following the open session.
SD-106

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Government Printing Office (GPO), and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

MARCH 31
9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program.

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, and base

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1573–S1611

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 565–573, and S. Res. 101. **Page S1600**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate, 111th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 112–2) **Page S1600**

Measures Passed:

World Plumbing Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 100, designating March 11, 2011, as “World Plumbing Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S1610**

Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 101, expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan. **Pages S1610–11**

Measures Considered:

SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 493, to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs. **Page S1590**

By 84 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. 40), 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 S1590**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate begin consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. **Page S1611**

Maiden Speeches—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the following Senators be recognized at the times listed below, as if in morning business, for the purpose of giving their maiden speech to the Senate: Senator Portman following the maiden speech of Senator Coats on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, for up to 15

minutes; and Senator Blumenthal at 12 noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2011, for up to 20 minutes.

Page S1611

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. EX. 39), James Emanuel Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Pages S1586–90, S1611**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness.

Major General Michael J. Walsh, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission.

Rear Admiral Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission.

Lewis Alan Lukens, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Paul D. Wohlers, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia.

Ariel Pablos-Mendez, of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Dan Arvizu, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

Alan I. Leshner, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

Robert C. Granger, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2014. **Page S1611**

Messages from the House: **Page S1599**

Measures Referred: **Page S1599**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1599–S1600**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1600–02**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1602–07
Additional Statements: Pages S1598–99
Amendments Submitted: Pages S1607–10
Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—40) Pages S1589–90, S1590
Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:19 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday,

March 15, 2011. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1611.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 1056–1075, were introduced.

Page H1796

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1797–98

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H. Res. 167, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 48) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–33);

Supplemental report on H.R. 839, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis (H. Rept. 112–31, Part 2); and

Supplemental report on H.R. 861, to rescind the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and to terminate the program (H. Rept. 112–32, Pt. 2). Pages H1795–96

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Campbell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1773

Recess: The House recessed at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H1774

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. Pages H1774, H1780

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 5:02 p.m. Pages H1774–75

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 793, to designate the facility of

the United States Postal Service located at 12781 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness, California, as the “Specialist Jake Robert Velloza Post Office”, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 394 yeas with none voting “nay” and 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 175 and

Pages H1775–76, H1779

Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford: H. Con. Res. 27, to provide for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 396 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 176.

Pages H1776–78, H1779–80

Recess: The House recessed at 5:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H1778

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of all those who were injured, are missing, and who perished in the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011. Page H1779

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1779 and H1780. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began markup of H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011; and H.J. Res. 37, a resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices.

ONLINE COMMERCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet held a hearing on Promoting Investment and Protecting Commerce Online: Legitimate Sites v. Parasites, Part I. Testimony was heard from Maria A. Pallante, Acting Register of Copyrights, Copyright Office and public witnesses.

ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 3, a closed rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 48. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read and that all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers of Kentucky; and Rep. Dicks.

VIEWS AND ESTIMATES ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Committee on Rules: The Committee adopted, by a non-record vote, its views and estimates on the President's fiscal year 2012 budget and authorized transmission to the Committee on the Budget.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Administration's report to Congress, focusing on reforming America's housing finance market, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the report of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine realizing NASA's potential, focusing on programmatic challenges in the 21st century, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine enhancing the President's authority to eliminate wasteful spending and reduce the budget deficit, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for Tribal Programs, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the "Freedom of Information Act", focusing on ensuring transparency and accountability in the digital age, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to mark up the fiscal year 2011 Intelligence Authorization, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under jurisdiction of the Committee for FY 2012, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on FY 2012 Budget Request, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on FY 2012 Budget Request, 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing on FY 2012 Budget Request for the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on FY 2012 Budget Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on FY 2012 Oversight & Budget, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on FY 2012 Budget Oversight, 1 p.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, hearing on Pell Grants, 10:30 a.m., 2358-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on FY 2012 Budget, 10:30 a.m., HT-2, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Army Posture, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies, hearing on Millennium Challenge Corporation, 10:30 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Housing and Urban Development—Transformation Initiative FY 2012 Oversight and Budget, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on military health system overview and Defense Health Program cost efficiencies, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on long-term readiness challenges in the Pacific, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the fiscal year 2012 national defense authorization budget request for national security space activities, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force tactical aviation programs, 11:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing on Education Regulations: Burying Schools in Paperwork, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, continued markup of H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011; and H.J. Res. 37, a resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on legislation to Approve the Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Strengthening the Border—Finding the Right Mix of Personnel, Infrastructure and Technology.” 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on H.R. 1002, the “Wireless Tax Fairness Act of 2011”, 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing entitled “Examining the Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration,

the Southwestern Power Administration and the Southeastern Power Administration” including the President’s Fiscal Year 2012 budget requests and other spending as it relates to the four Power Marketing Administrations, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs, hearing entitled, “State and Municipal Debt: The Coming Crisis? Part II.” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, hearing entitled, “Obamacare: Why the Need for Waivers?” 1:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 839, the HAMP Termination Act of 2011; and H.R. 861, the NSP Termination Act, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing on An Overview of Science and Technology Research and Development Programs and Priorities to Effectively Protect Homeland Security, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup to consider the views and estimates on the Small Business Administration’s FY 2012 budget request, 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Assuring the Freedom of Americans on the High Seas: The United States Response to Piracy, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, organizational meeting and hearing on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission’s (MedPAC) annual March Report to the Congress which details the Commission’s recommendations for updating Medicare payment policies, 1 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S. 493, SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.J. Res. 48—Additional Continuing Appropriations Amendments, 2011 (Subject to a Rule).

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