

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HUMAN TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a program, which in the last several years, has helped more than 47,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment: The AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This comes in a segment of the population that has suffered from significant unemployment. But opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have come a long way in helping to bring people with disabilities into a working society. I am proud to acknowledge that Human Technologies Corporation, also known as HTC, represents one of the many Social Enterprises dedicated to the mission of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

HTC is a company made up of six diverse businesses which provide a wide-range of resources that expand opportunities for people with disabilities in New York and provide high quality products and services for Federal customers throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. A DLA Not for Profit Vendor of the Year recipient, HTC manufactures apparel and equipage items for several branches of the military and provides sophisticated employee uniform program management and distribution of apparel to thousands of Federal civilian employees for the U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers and will soon manage the Air Force Civilian Police uniform program. In addition to the manufacture and distribution of apparel and equipage, HTC provides building maintenance and associated groundskeeping services for GSA, NAVFAC and the Air Force. HTC performs to the highest standards and does so through the employment of individuals with significant disabilities. In 2010 HTC provided more than 416 jobs for persons with disabilities and an additional 123 jobs for people without disabilities resulting in more than 415,400 hours of employment.

HTC, and its Property Management Group division, is responsible for the cleaning of my district office in Utica. I could not be more pleased with the service provided by these men and women. I am proud to say that among the workforce is a Vietnam War Veteran with a disability named Herb. Herb has

been employed by HTC for more than 24 years. His dedication and quality work allows me to be of even greater service to my constituents every day. I was also visited this past month in my Washington D.C. office by another AbilityOne/HTC employee named Sandy. Sandy is a sewing machine operator and cuts and sews trousers and shirts for the thousands of Federal employees HTC serves in its uniform program line of business. HTC and the AbilityOne Program have given individuals like Herb and Sandy exactly what every American wants and deserves—an opportunity. They have been afforded countless ways to make a difference in both their lives, and in ours, each day and we as a community, and as a country, benefit from their hard work, skills and dedication.

HTC believes that work is inherently dignified and fulfilling, and that individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment deserve the opportunity to work and to achieve their fullest potential. The direct impact of such an organization on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated and as such, the AbilityOne Program and Social Enterprises like HTC are invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Richard E. Sebastian, Jr., HTC's President and Chief Executive Officer and his staff for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become contributors to each of their communities and to our country. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to provide valuable products and services to Federal agencies throughout this great land and in so doing, improve their own lives by engaging in meaningful work.

MAJOR FUEL DISTRIBUTOR CALLS FOR ENFORCING DODD-FRANK ANTI-SPECULATION PROVISIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last month, I met in my office with Joseph Petrowski, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Cumberland Gulf Group of Companies, headquartered in the district of my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY). I was interested in meeting with Mr. Petrowski to get his view of the current debate that is going on as to whether or not we should be taking action at the Federal level to curb speculation in the energy industry. As Mr. Petrowski notes in the accompanying letter, the Cumberland Gulf Group includes "Gulf Oil, which distributes motor fuels through a network of more than 3,500 gasoline stations in over 27 States, 12 proprietary oil terminals,

and more than 70 other supply terminals." As he notes, "Gulf Oil supplies gasoline, heating oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel and kerosene through its terminal network."

Mr. Speaker, the central point is that Mr. Petrowski, as someone who is in the business of selling various forms of fuel, for the ultimate purchase by individual consumers, rebuts those who argue that speculation is irrelevant to the price that is paid at the pump and elsewhere by consumers, as Mr. Petrowski notes in the accompanying letter, "Today with price levels more volatile than ever, prices higher than ever, and open interest larger than ever, and both exchange and off exchange volume of trade a double digit multiple to physical usage, there is little doubt that speculation is a key determinant of prices and may very well be the determining factor in setting prices."

Mr. Speaker, this point deserves great emphasis—to repeat, because of the centrality of this to our policy debate, the CEO of one of the leading distributors of gasoline, oil and diesel fuel affirms, based on the experience he has had in this industry for many years and the current economics, "there is little doubt that speculation is the key determinant of prices and may very well be the determining factor in setting prices."

Mr. Speaker, there has been a totally misguided effort here in this House to slash funds for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and to suspend until late next year the authority given by the Financial Reform bill to Federal regulators to limit speculation. Mr. Petrowski makes very clear that the effect of this is to add to higher prices through unchecked speculation, and given the authority that he brings to this issue, I ask that his very thoughtful letter on this subject be printed here.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to affirming the importance of speculation, Mr. Petrowski makes some other thoughtful suggestions about legislative changes and it is my intention to study these carefully and after that talk with my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee about acting on Mr. Petrowski's suggestions in some respects. But the key point is to affirm here what one of the leading voices in the fuel business thinks about speculation and the impact it has on the prices ultimately paid by retailers.

CUMBERLAND GULF GROUP

OF COMPANIES,

Framingham, MA, July 7, 2011.

HON. BARNEY FRANK,

U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FRANK: While I understand some of the criticism of the Dodd-Frank legislation, no legislation and no reform effort is ever going to be perfect. All administrative oversight and legislative response is a continuous process as markets and technologies evolve. Dodd-Frank was not

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

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

the end point of financial reform but a good first step in addressing market structure in a way that would improve performance. Having worked in the commodities and energy business for over 35 years, I am well aware of how the commodity markets operate and what factors determine the price of energy, food stuffs, and other essential commodities. I am a strong advocate of free markets but only the most naive would claim that free markets can exist and flourish without parameters and a framework of rules and procedures that render the process fair. This has always been so but never more so than today. Globalization, technology, and securitization among other factors have amplified the need for effective legislative and administrative oversight.

In my current capacity, I serve as CEO of the Cumberland Gulf Group. Under that umbrella sits Gulf Oil, which distributes motor fuels through a network of more than 3,500 gasoline stations in over 27 states, 12 proprietary oil terminals, and more than 70 other supply terminals. Gulf Oil supplies gasoline, heating oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel and kerosene through its terminal network. Before coming to Gulf Oil, I served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Louis Dreyfus Energy Corp., one of the largest commodities traders in the world. In both capacities, as a trader and now a fuel purchaser and supplier, I am intimately familiar with the inner workings of the derivatives market.

As in any market, supply and demand play a critical role for energy prices. The perception of the future pace of both supply and demand are often more of a determinant of prices than actual supply and demand. This can be frustrating to members of the general public who sometimes see a price rise or fall without any tangible change in current supply or demand. Yet today with price levels more volatile than ever, prices higher than ever, and open interest larger than ever, and both exchange and off exchange volume of trade a double digit multiple to physical usage, there is little doubt that speculation is a key determinant of prices and may very well be the determining factor in setting prices. And even if the disproportionate increase in trade volume to physical usage were not disturbing and one believed that in the end the average price was still set by supply and demand forces rather than financial speculation (an assertion with which I would disagree), volatility induced by excess speculation is not in the best interests of efficient markets, the general public and industrial activity. Simply put, an oil market that goes from \$40/barrel to \$147 per barrel and back to \$32 per barrel in less than a year is destructive to society and beneficial to only a very few.

I should note that speculation is not necessarily a bad thing—it brings liquidity to the market and allows commercial entities to hedge their risk on future contracts for the trade of physical goods. However, there has been a rapid increase of the participation in the market by non-commercial entities such as hedge funds and financial institutions. Those entities, depending on their behavior, have the ability not only to speculate in the market but manipulate the market. It is the regulation of these entities that is most necessary and the Dodd-Frank Act brings regulation to this market through a requirement of mandatory clearing of swaps and the placement of position limits on certain futures contracts, including energy. Financial markets in certain aspects do resemble a casino and I am not making a moral judgment on casinos but even a casino has rules of engagement and enforcement that ensure a level playing field. A rigged casino is certainly not good for most participants and in the long run is

not good for the casino itself. Instruments of risk sharing and markets of financial intermediation perform a vital function but they do not grow spontaneously nor do they exist for long in a state of nature absent oversight and rule making.

I have set forth some preliminary thoughts below on reforms we need to improve market performance set forth below and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail with you, your staff and others on the Financial Services Committee.

1. Make the exchange requirements of what it means to be a "Hedger" much more stringent. Today, almost anyone with a small and insignificant physical position can qualify as a "hedger". Also large entities with massive financial strength can qualify as a hedger, exceed the speculative limits in a given index or exchange instrument, manipulate that index and then trade multiple volume contracts off that index in non-exchange business. We see a proliferation of financial and bank entities entering the physical market for no other reason but to qualify for the more generous liberties afforded a "hedger".

2. Raise the margin requirements for non-hedgers significantly to minimize speculator-driven volatility and still allow enough liquidity in the market so that entities with real business purposes can transact. This will drive weaker speculators out of the market. It will also dramatically reduce volatility because the Variance Margin buffer could be increased dramatically which would stop the phenomenon of leverage that has often been at the foundation of many financial train wrecks (see mortgage market). Assume you are a \$10/bbl balance sheet company. You buy 1 barrel of oil costing \$100 and you only have to post \$6, the market goes from \$100 to \$96, you are poised to sell quickly because you know if it goes to \$90, you are out of business, so you start selling to make sure you can pull back your initial margin to cover your variance margin and live to fight another day (and likely lose as 90% of spec traders do). Now imagine the same scenario with \$30 margin requirements. The market would never move enough for the trader to be concerned about not having enough initial margin to pull back to cover the variance. The fundamental/technical influence would shift hard back towards the fundamental. I am not certain exactly what the right margin increase should be (though 500% is not out of the question from my perspective), but it is clear that today the margin requirements are too low. The phenomenon of sharp spikes in the absence of attributing "events" is evidence of a highly leveraged market.

3. The government should create a government-backed exchange that helps long term consumers and producers hedge. If a small land owner owns a 3,000 bbl/day well in middle Kansas and wants to lock in his price at \$95 a barrel for 5 years, how does he do it? Is he going to sell 5.5 million barrels of futures on Nymex and post \$32,000,000 in initial margin? What happens if the price goes up \$40 per barrel? Mr. Small Producer is going to pay the exchange \$220,000,000 in margin and claw it back 3,000 bbls a day at a time? I think not. Right now some of the banks will do that business but they are enjoying "healthy" margins. If the government came in and provided the credit umbrella (through a government sponsored exchange) they would bring a lot of production to the hedging market and would also incentivize both producers and consumers to think long term. Users should have the opportunity to lock in costs for longer durations and sellers should be able to hedge out their revenue streams but credit, financing costs, and other structural factors remain impediments to development. While some might criticize this proposal based upon the recent issues in the

mortgage markets, this would be an important reform to allow small businesses to participate in the commodities markets. Such liquidity was not the problem with mortgages, it was leverage, lack of transparency, complexity, and very simply in many cases dishonesty, that brought down the housing market.

In general, all markets operate best when they are transparent, liquid and not over leveraged. I am hopeful that Congress will allow the Commodities Futures Trading Commission to proceed with the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act. I strongly believe we will see positive effects from this regulation on not only the price of oil but many other commodities upon which our country relies.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH H. PETROWSKI,
CEO.

EGYPT ASSESSMENT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the Report on a Trip to Cairo, Egypt, written by R. Leslie Deak, and presented to the Policy and Planning section of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Deak is an American businessman who has spent the last nine years living part of each year in Egypt. He is on the Board of Advisors of the Center for a New American Security and is a Trustee of the National Defense University Foundation.

This is an interesting and important document, and I commend it to my colleagues.

EGYPT ASSESSMENT: REPORT ON TRIP TO
CAIRO, EGYPT

(By R. Leslie Deak)

PRESENTED TO J-5 JCS, MAY 11, 2011

(Pentagon—Policy and Planning for Joint
Chiefs of Staff)

I just returned from two weeks in Egypt. During my trip, I spent most of my time in Cairo reestablishing existing contacts and developing contacts with new players in the emerging power structure.

I met with informed figures in the business, political, legal, journalism and religious fields. I also had extensive contact with our people over there to get their assessment and to gauge their views against those from the Egyptians.

The country is a transition that will likely end in a manner not to our liking. There are some efforts that can be undertaken at this time to help try to impact the outcome if implemented rapidly.

I have summarized the current situation, explored in more depth the key areas of concern and suggested actions that may help impact on the outcome.

First Impressions

The fall of Mubarak's regime is widely welcomed. There is a palpable relief among people that the repression and corruption are finally easing. This is mixed with an uncertainty about what the future holds. This is very much an Inch Allah moment at all levels that I had contact with.

The impression of the US is poor. We are viewed as a contributory factor to the problems because of our prior support for Mubarak and our wavering during the early stages of the revolution. Our direct involvement in their affairs is not welcomed. Our operating in the background and providing support is more acceptable.

The society in general is fascinated with the unfolding spectacle of arrests, incriminations and the extent of the corruption. Politics and then soccer are the subjects discussed, in that order. Since there is uncertainty about the future, most attention is focused on the past and day-to-day life.

Prices are up by thirty percent from before the revolution but people seem to take it in stride. The Government is raising public employee salaries dramatically and is hiring unemployed workers in great numbers in order to try to maintain social stability. Continued and worsening inflation in the near term is inevitable and the population is reacting accordingly—retaining or acquiring property, jewelry, hoarding, converting pounds to foreign currency when possible, etc.

Withdrawal of Egyptian Pounds was just liberalized. Foreign currency withdrawals are restricted to the equivalent of EL10,000 per day in foreign currency. Transfers abroad are restricted to \$100,000 maximum per account and need individual approval from the Central Bank.

Tourism, second largest source of external funds after Suez, is off by 85%. Although the recent lifting of the USDOS Travel Advisory initially helped increase interest in travel from the US to Egypt, the recent sectarian conflict has been a new setback. The consensus opinion is that travel will not recover until the Fall at the earliest assuming that the security situation stabilizes by that time.

Recently, traffic police have returned to the streets in Cairo but regular police, special police, detectives and prosecutors have not yet returned. Our people have been informed by sources they consider reliable, that police presence is back up to 65%. Reliable Egyptian sources I spoke with put the figure closer to 50%. Police salaries have been increased ten-fold (to EL 3,000–4,000 per month) and law school graduates are being recruited to become police. Internal security is nonoperational and is supposedly being overhauled. All US assisted police training programs have been suspended over concerns of working with bad actors.

While Cairo is safe during the daytime, at night there is occasionally sporadic gunfire. Travel outside populated areas carries dangers of hijacking. There is widespread carrying of firearms by the population and no apparent consequence or prosecution for use of deadly force in self-defense.

Politically, the general belief is that things will work out and that the Muslim Brotherhood will play a role in the country's future but will not dominate. Unfortunately, I do not agree with this assessment.

Where Things are Heading

The following analysis is conjecture on my part. However, I vetted the conclusions against all of my sources in Egypt and here and, sadly, found that none could refute them.

Economics

The country seems to be sliding towards a modified socialism with the government set to play a significantly increased role in the economy. We can expect that most, if not all, of the economic reforms implemented over the last five years to be rolled back.

The government is already beginning to abrogate contracts and seize properties implicated in any dealings with the prior government. Since the Mubarak regime and their cronies were involved in every aspect of the economy, no prior business arrangement is immune—this is especially true where deals were based on the use of or access to State assets (land, businesses, natural resources, etc.)

Another current problem for the private sector is that there is no place to get a reli-

able or binding decision on which to make business judgments since the current Cabinet is transitional and their decisions are subject to change in the future.

The public sector is growing dramatically both in terms of cost and size as the Supreme Council races to prevent uprisings from the lower class.

They recognize that they are going to soon be facing a massive external liquidity squeeze and are casting about for any sources of foreign funds available in order to be able to continue to import essential staples. Their foreign policy reflects this with their playing off the U.S., Iran and Saudi to see who will give them money first.

I believe we can expect increasing economic and, eventually, social instability due to the deteriorating economic trends.

Politics

In my opinion, I see little likelihood of the Muslim Brotherhood not becoming the dominant force in Egypt in the near term. This will occur despite the desire by the population as a whole to have a more representative secular government.

To understand this conclusion, some background is in order.

For the last eighty years, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) has been providing social services to a growing sector of the population. They provide health care, education, food, shelter, counseling, adjudicate disputes, etc. This impact has become especially pronounced over the last thirty years as increasing resources were diverted from government services and wound up in the pockets of corrupt officials. During this time, the MB had developed a highly efficient network that is well integrated into the society throughout the country and especially in the poorer areas and in the rural areas in Upper Egypt (the South) and the Delta.

The military, which is a conscript army, is largely drawn from this lower socio-economic half of the population. Accordingly, they are familiar with, and are largely sympathetic to, the MB. They do not currently view them as a threat. In fact, virtually all of the Military officers I have met over the years are religiously conservative as are their families.

An alliance with the MB does not pose an issue for the military and in fact helps solve two critical issues that the military faces.

The first issue is complicity—the military leadership is assumed to be complicit in all of the corruption and problems of the old regime. They have been able to shelter almost all of the ex-military from prosecution, but pressure is mounting to throw them to the wolves. This does not bode well for the current leadership and they are focused on protecting themselves from prosecution with any new civilian government that they allow to emerge. I believe that they have reached this accommodation with the MB.

Secondly, is the issue of the patronage system. The military controls thirty percent patent of the economy and much of the land in Egypt. The proceeds from these enterprises and sale of land are used to provide benefits and perks to the officer corps so as to maintain loyalty and discipline. If anything interrupts this arrangement, the senior staff faces the danger of possible insurrection from the junior officers. I believe the MB recognizes the need to maintain this system and has reached an accommodation with the military to continue it.

With these two issues apparently resolved, I believe that the military cleared the path for accelerated elections in September knowing that the MB would dominate the elections despite the desire by the opposition forces to see a more balanced and secular

(civil) outcome. They then dissolved the NDP in order to further strengthen the MB.

Unfortunately, barring a change in the timing of the elections or a suspension by the Military due to security concerns, the MB will sweep the elections simply due to their organizational capabilities. They recently raised their public target from 35% to 50% of the seats. I personally believe that they will ultimately win more than 70% of the seats. This will place them in position to dominate the process that will result in a new constitution that has been mandated as part of the recent referendum.

Except for the MB, there is no organization with the capability to get out the vote. The opposition is highly fragmented and disorganized. There is a possibility that the old parliamentarians may run for election independently and serve to weaken the MB, but it is unlikely. The old members benefitted from their positions in Parliament and under the current environment will most likely not run (as one told me, it cost him EGP 5 million to win each election but he could make EGP 50 million through his position—he has no interest in exposing his past activities of running again with no prospect of recovering his investment—I believe this is representative of the situation in general).

While this has been going on in the background, much international and public attention has been kept focused on the Presidential election. This is a diversion since the new President will have very proscribed powers. The MB has indicated that they will not run, but they are negotiating with the candidates and will throw their weight behind the one that will assure their interests.

The recent issue with the Salafis is largely viewed as manufactured by the MB in order to make the MB appear more moderate. I would personally expect that the MB and the military will resolve the Salafi problem once it has served its purpose.

What Can be Done

The first thing that needs to be done is to improve our image with the Egyptian people. We can do this through several actions.

First, we could use our current available resources to help locate and freeze funds that belong to the long list of individuals under detention or indictment. Publicizing our efforts to assist in this manner will be front page news throughout the Middle East and will have an enormous positive impact on public perception of the U.S. in Egypt. I recommend this while at the same time acknowledging the broader impact such an action may have on investors from other countries.

Secondly, we should remain neutral and supportive of the election process and their right to set their own destiny regardless of the outcome. It will be very important for us not to be seen as judgmental of, or in opposition to, the outcome of the election. Any perceived effort on our part to influence the election will backfire and both damage our reputation and adversely impact any individual or group perceived to be supported by us.

This does not mean that we have to sit back and accept the long term impact of the elections.

If we hope to see the situation improve, then the next, and immediate, focus should be to ramp up our efforts to work with groups that can bring influence to bear on the constitutional process. These include the opposition groups, the youth groups, the emerging parties, the Copts and the military and possibly the new President once we know who it is.

The only way to short-circuit the MB dominating the constitutional process after the election is to help the opposition organize to focus the issues and bring people out

in to the streets again. We can also try to work in the background to convince the military that it is in everyone's interest to assure a balanced and open constitutional process. The street protests will help in this effort.

To the extent that our assistance is requested, we can also work with those domestic change agents with whom contact has already been established in order to help them work towards an open process so as to assure a fully representational political process in the future.

As long as the constitutional process can be opened up so that it is representative, it is likely that the MB will be a one-election phenomenon and that we will see an outcome like Kuwait. Any group that wins this election is doomed to fail because of the deteriorating economic and security situation. The only real concern we should have is what happens next. I believe that we can have an impact on that outcome which will serve the interest of both Egypt and the U.S.

However, our window of opportunity is closing quickly.

HONOR THE LIFE OF JAMES T.
MOLLOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of James T. "Jimmy" Molloy, former Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. Jimmy was one of my district's finest citizens, a proud and favorite son of South Buffalo, New York and undoubtedly one of the greatest public servants in our Nation's Capitol for over 40 years. Jim's passing marked a sad day throughout Capitol Hill and throughout Jim's neighborhood, a loss that will be felt for years to come, yet his gracious spirit and world-class stories will be remembered by all those who were fortunate enough to call Jimmy Molloy a friend.

James T. Molloy was born in South Buffalo on June 3, 1936, to Matthew Molloy and Katherine Hayden Molloy. Educated in Buffalo's Catholic schools, he followed his father's footsteps by working in the grain elevators of Buffalo's waterfront and fighting fires as a proud member of the Buffalo Fire Department.

Through his labor, James T. Molloy paid his own way through Canisius College, a great Jesuit institution in Western New York, and became a lifelong friend of Western New York working families. He was a member of the AFL-CIO, the International Brotherhood of Longshoremen and International Association of Firefighters. After pursuing studies at St. John's University Law School, James T. Molloy worked as a schoolteacher in the cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna. He also worked in the office of Erie County District Attorney where he met his wife, Roseanne.

Jim came to Washington in 1968 at the invitation of New York Congressman John Rooney. During his service in the House Finance Office, he oversaw the legislative appropriations for the House as they grew from \$75 million to \$126 million per year. James T. Molloy was elected doorkeeper of the United States House of Representatives in 1974 and proudly remained in that post through the 103d Congress, serving as the primary aide to Speakers

Carl Albert, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, James Wright and Tom Foley.

In fact, Jim was the last of 30 people to hold the position of doorkeeper from its establishment in 1789 to its elimination in 1995. Within this capacity, he introduced Presidents and numerous heads of state to our august body. He coordinated 71 joint sessions of Congress, as well as many other special events, within this Chamber. Jim also acted as a vital connection between his hometown, South Buffalo, New York, and Congress, inspiring countless men and women from the Buffalo area to consider careers in public service. Additionally, Jim served as chairman of the board on the Wright-Patman Congressional Credit Union, a position he held for 30 years.

James T. Molloy was awarded numerous honors for his life's work in public service. He received the Outstanding Citizen Award for the New York State AFL-CIO, the President's Award from the New York State Federation of Police, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association Outstanding Service, and the Sid Yudin Congressional Staffer of the Year Award from Roll Call. In July of 2005, I considered it a privilege and an honor to sponsor a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives to name a South Buffalo Post Office in James T. Molloy's honor. This recognition was so well deserved and a lasting reminder of Jim's strong commitment to his neighborhood and our great Nation.

I was deeply saddened upon learning of the passing of James T. Molloy. To pay respect to his legacy, I issued the following statement:

"For 20 years South Buffalo's own James T. Molloy served as the House of Representatives doorkeeper, a prestigious title held by only 34 people going back to 1789. As the individual with control of access to the House Chambers he held great authority but was especially known for greeting Western New Yorkers visiting the Capitol with particular affection. Generations of local residents, many of whom can be found working on the Hill today, benefited from his welcoming spirit and institutional knowledge."

"Jim was a friend and confidant. In my first days and months in Congress he was generous with his time and advice, passing on valuable lessons I keep with me today. He will be dearly missed by those in Washington, DC and friends and family locally but we have peace knowing that our own legendary and beloved doorkeeper has now gone on to meet a doorkeeper of a much higher power."

Mr. Speaker, our country has suffered a great loss with Jim's passing and my deepest condolences are with his wife, Roseanne, his daughter, Amy and son-in-law Michael Bogardus, his beloved grandchildren Catherine and Caroline and Jim's siblings Janet Molloy and Kathleen and William Straub, as well as extended family members and friends. As someone who was blessed to know Jimmy Molloy, I will always carry his memory through these halls.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on final passage of H.R. 2018, The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 573, I would have voted "no."

This bill is an assault on the fundamental water protections the American people rely on and would reverse decades of progress. It significantly undermines the Clean Water Act, jeopardizes public health, and gravely affects our environment and economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to the celebration of my daughter's wedding, I was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes during the week of July 18. Had I been present for the votes that week, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 602: I would have voted in favor of H.R. 33, legislation amending the Securities Act of 1933 to specify when certain securities issued in connection with church plans are treated as exempted securities for purposes of that Act.

Rollcall vote 606: I would have voted against H.R. 2560, legislation submitting a constitutional amendment to the States that would irresponsibly limited the government's ability to respond to wars, disasters, or other challenges as well as changing Congressional voting procedures that would end majority rule.

Rollcall vote 611: I would have voted against H.R. 2553, legislation that, while extending the operations of the Federal Aviation Authority, would undermine labor relations.

Rollcall vote 621: I would have voted against H.R. 1315, legislation undermining consumer protections implemented as part of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Rollcall vote 629: I would have voted against H.R. 2551, ideologically driven legislation that cuts funding for House and joint operations by \$227 million (6.4 percent) from FY11 enacted levels, which is \$472 million (12.4 percent) below the requested amount. These cuts risk possible layoffs and pay-cuts for legislative branch staff, which will damage Congress' ability to fulfill its Constitutional duties and responsibilities to the public. For example, the Library of Congress, which is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and provides critical resources to Members of Congress, was severely cut to 13.7 percent below the request. I was also dismayed by the cuts to related agencies such as Congressional Research Service, Government Accountability Office and Congressional Budget Office, which provide crucial assistance and oversight to Congress. These cuts will make the Legislative Branch less effective, not more efficient.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MICHAEL ALLEN DAVIDSON 9/11 FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the philanthropic activities of the Michael Allen Davidson (M.A.D.) 9/11 Foundation and their efforts to provide a new playground facility in Neptune, New Jersey. The late Michael Davidson is remembered as a young professional determined to make a difference in the lives of those around him, yet tragically lost his life in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The new playground facility in Neptune has been erected in his honor and will continue to stand as a symbol of Michael's spirit and fortitude.

Michael Allen Davidson was an impressive individual, dedicated to building a successful professional career while assisting others. Michael was a member of the Rutgers University Class of 1997 and applied his educational background to become a successful trader. In 2001, Michael was to be named the youngest Partner at Cantor Fitzgerald, located on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center, North Tower. At the early age of 27, Michael tragically lost his life during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. He is remembered for his uncanny ability to make others smile and laugh. These characteristics are a testament to his continuous outpouring of love and compassion for others.

The M.A.D. 9/11 Foundation has continued to organize various philanthropic activities in honor of the late Michael Davidson. Playgrounds, for children ages 2 through 5, have been erected in Tinton Falls, Wall, and Eatontown, New Jersey. The most recent project in Neptune has expanded the recreational facilities for children in the community and continues to provide a beautiful landscape for children to grow, while commemorating the life of an outstanding individual. Among many other projects, the foundation has also committed to fund the majority of a rehabilitation project—a World Trade Center replica memorial that sits in front of the Tinton Falls Fire Department. The M.A.D. 9/11 Foundation has been supported by caring individuals dedicated to making a difference in the community on behalf of the late Michael Allen Davidson.

As a result of their outstanding efforts, the M.A.D. 9/11 Foundation was awarded the 2001 Fay S. Mathewson Award, presented by the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association as a testament to their contributions to the Monmouth County community. They are also the recipient of the 2009 Monmouth County Parks and Recreation Difference Maker Award and the Tinton Falls Appreciation Award.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in thanking the Michael Allen Davidson 9/11 Foundation for their dedication to the Monmouth County community and commemorate the life of Michael Allen Davidson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on amendment rollcall Nos. 622, No. 623, No. 624, No. 625, No. 626, No. 627, No. 628 as well as rollcall No. 629 for final passage of H.R. 2551, I am not recorded because I was attending to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Yes”—Representative Melvin Watt Amendment;

“Yes”—Representative Nan Hayworth Amendment;

“No”—Representative Paul Broun Amendment;

“Yes”—Representative Marlin Stutzman Amendment;

“No”—Representative Glenn Thompson Amendment;

“No”—Representative James Moran Amendment;

“No”—Representative Rush Holt Amendment; and

“Yes”—Final Passage of H.R. 2551.

HONORING THE COHOCTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department who have tirelessly served our local and national community for 125 years. As the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 125th anniversary, I applaud the many ways they have served our community.

From July 22–24, members of the department will hold several events commemorating the service of their valiant volunteers. Historical displays, parades, competitions and dinners will be held. The department will even be publishing a commemorative book on its history to celebrate this milestone.

For the past 125 years, members have selflessly given their time and energy to serve our community throughout periods of emergency and disaster. While the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department should be commemorated for all of their service to our community, I want to especially highlight their tireless work during the 1972 Flood, the Ice Storm of 1991 and the Blizzard of 1993—three major storms which devastated the Chemung Valley.

Furthermore, the department also aided the national community during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Under a mutual aid request, the department sent an ambulance and personnel to the Twin Towers Site after the attack. The ambulance was equipped with medical supplies donated by the local community for use by the FDNY.

Members of the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department have repeatedly risked their lives in order to save our friends and neighbors. I am proud to recognize such a self-sacrificing and courageous organization. I congratulate the Cohocton Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their 125 years of service.

MASSACHUSETTS AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL WILL GREATLY MISS MYRA KRAFT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week, one of Massachusetts' leading citizens succumbed to a long illness, which she had courageously fought. Myra Kraft was the partner and wife of Robert Kraft, and co-owner of the New England Patriots. Under the leadership of the Kraft family, the Patriots became one of the great sports franchises in America, not simply because of their extremely impressive record of Super Bowl championships, but because of the honorable way in which they conducted their business, and because of the great contributions they made to their community. I have the honor of representing the Town of Foxboro, in which the Patriots play, and in which the Kraft family created a wonderful commercial complex that adds a great deal to the economic and cultural life not just of the town but of the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the pleasure of walking through the complex with members of the Kraft family and I can report to you that the residents of New England—not just Massachusetts—are understandably great enthusiasts of the work the family has done.

Myra Kraft was an extraordinary contributor to the society around her, not just through the work of the Patriots, but through her great charitable efforts. She was a leading member of the organized work of the Jewish community of Greater Boston, but her good works were not confined.

All of Massachusetts will miss her, even those who did not know of the work she did, because she was not one to seek publicity for her efforts. And those of us who did have the privilege of knowing her are particularly saddened by her loss.

Mr. Speaker, the Boston Globe for Friday, July 22, in its lead editorial expressed what our community feels about Myra Kraft and I ask that because she presented such a wonderful example of good citizenship in a democracy, that this editorial be printed.

[From the Boston Globe, July 22, 2011]

MYRA KRAFT WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR FAMILY LOYALTY AND GIVING

Bob Kraft, the developer turned football impresario, made the once-derided New England Patriots a symbol of local pride. Myra, his wife of 48 years, made the Kraft family a symbol of civic responsibility. Her numerous charitable works, including chairing the local boards of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Boys & Girls Clubs, paralleled Bob's rise in the statewide business community.

The Krafts were an unbreakable unit. Bob and Myra's four sons shared in all their parents' endeavors. On May 3, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce honored the family for their work on behalf of the community, fueled by Myra's tireless exertions.

She was too ill to attend the banquet, but her husband, sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren all stood proudly together on the dais—an honor guard of which any mother would be eternally proud.

“I got it right the first time,” quipped Bob, referring to Myra, whom he married when she was just 20. Myra Kraft, who died

Wednesday and for whom services will be held today made many contributions to the Boston area. Foremost among them is the example she set for family loyalty and shared commitment. It will live on not only through her offspring, but through others who tightened their own family bonds, even if in a small way, in response to her inspiration.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2551) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the FY 2012 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. Not because I object to cuts affecting Members of Congress or their staff. I do not. As I have repeatedly said, I believe a responsible solution to our national debt will require shared sacrifice from every American—and that includes Members of Congress, their staff and other employees of this House.

I object to this legislation because of the wrongheaded choices it makes elsewhere in the legislative branch of our government. For example, H.R. 2551 cuts funding for the Government Accountability Office by 6.4%—despite the fact that every dollar spent by the GAO on its oversight activities returns \$4 in savings to the taxpayers. Additionally, as we wrestle with difficult issues in an increasingly complex world, I think Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle would agree that policymakers need access to more objective and independent expert analysis, not less. Yet this bill slashes funding for the Library of Congress and its widely respected nonpartisan Congressional Research Service by 8.5%—and it cuts funding for the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that serves as the definitive scorekeeper for every measure Congress considers by 6.4%.

Mr. Speaker, there are responsible and effective ways to reduce federal spending, and there are irresponsible and ineffective ways to reduce Federal spending. Unfortunately, this bill has too much of the latter and not enough of the former.

I urge a no vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 2011 SAGE
WORLD CUP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 SAGE World Cup, which is being hosted by Canisius College in Buffalo, NY.

SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship) is an international

network dedicated to creating leaders, innovations, and social enterprises to address the world's needs. Founded in 2002 by Dr. Curtis L. DeBerg, the network now extends to over 500 high schools in 17 countries, and is run completely by volunteers.

Each year, the winners of SAGE's national competitions advance to the "SAGE World Cup," where teams are judged not only on marketplace viability, but also on social impact, environmental stewardship, and civic engagement. This year, the World Cup will be held in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in honoring SAGE and its 2011 World Cup participants, whose dedication to creating better futures for themselves and others through socially responsible enterprises and businesses is commendable.

IN HONOR OF MRS. IRENE M.
MORROW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Irene Morrow who is being honored at this year's American Nationalities Movement's awards dinner.

Mrs. Morrow began her work in the public sector in 1964 when she was appointed as Deputy Registrar for the Board of Elections and began working for the Notary Public Commission. During the same year, she began serving as Deputy Auditor in the Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office where she would remain for eight years. Subsequently, Irene worked as the Personnel Administrator and Secretary of the Civil Service Commission for seventeen years. In 1978 she was elected Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the American Nationalities Movement, a post which she retained until 2011. In 2004, Irene established the Ralph J. Perk Foundation, an organization which works to fund free mammograms and prostate screenings for the inner-city poor.

Mrs. Morrow has received numerous awards and honors throughout her decades of public service. She was presented with the Keys to the City of Cleveland from Mayor Ralph J. Perk and then Mayor George V. Voinovich in 1977 and again in 1985. In 1982 she was honored as one of the forty most outstanding women in Ohio by Mrs. Barbara Bush. She has also received accolades from the Polonia Foundation of Ohio in 1985, the American Nationalities Movement in 1988, and she was presented with an Appreciation Award from the United Hungarian Societies in 2007. Last year, she was inducted into the International Hall of Fame of Greater Cleveland.

Irene is married to Mr. Edward Morrow, and together they have six children and six grandchildren. She continues to serve on the Advisory Board of Fairview Park and Lutheran Hospitals.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Irene M. Morrow, a woman who has done so much for her community and for her country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MURID ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN AMERICA'S 23RD ANNUAL CHEIKH AHMADOU BAMBA MBACKE ISLAMIC CULTURAL WEEK CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and celebrate the Murid Islamic Community in America's 23rd Annual Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacke Islamic Cultural Week Celebration in New York City. On Thursday, July 21, the Murid Islamic Community in America (MICA) will host its annual welcome reception at Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts in Harlem, where they will officially launch the North American Tour of the Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacke Islamic Cultural Weeks.

The Honorable Iman Ababacar Dabo, President of the Murid Islamic Community in America and The Honorable Serigne Mame Mor Mbacke, grandson to Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacke will pay special tribute to my brother, the Honorable David N. Dinkins, first African American and 106th Mayor of the City of New York. David Dinkins was the first public official outside of Senegal, West Africa to proclaim "Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Day" in celebration of his profound philosophies of Universal Peace and International Brotherhood.

Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba was born in the year 1271 (A.H.), which is 1853 in Mbacke Baol, a small village in Senegal. Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbakke was born in the village of Mbacké Mbakke Bawol in Wolof in the Kingdom of Baol, the son of a Marabout from the Xaadri Qadriyya brotherhood, the oldest in Senegal. A religious prayer leader, poet and monk, Ahmadou Bamba founded the Mouride brotherhood in 1883 and the city of Touba. In one of his numerous writings, Matlابل Fawzeyni the quest for happiness in both worlds, Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba describes the purpose of the city, which he founded in 1887. In his concept, Touba should reconcile the spiritual and the temporal.

Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba intended to have the spiritual capital of Brotherhood, by showing all the characteristics of a Muslim city. He is the son of Muhammad, and grandson of Abibul-allah, who was the son of Muhammad. His father Mohammad Ibn Habiballah was a famous Juriconsult and a well-respected Imam. The Cheikh's mother was known as Diaratoullah close to Allah, because of her renowned piety and chastity. Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba memorized the Holy Qu'ran very early. He was very educated in the different fields of Islamic sciences and the Arabic language. He wrote many books in the teaching of Islam, and great poems dedicated to the Prophet Muhammad.

As his fame spread, the French colonial government worried about Bamba's growing power and potential to wage war against them. He had converted a number of traditional kings and their followers and no doubt could have raised a huge military force, as Muslim leaders like Umar Tall and Samory Touré had before him.

The French sentenced him to exile in Gabon 1895–1902 and later in Mauritania

1903–1907. However, these exiles fired stories and folk tales of Bamba's miraculous survival of torture, deprivation, and attempted executions, and thousands more flocked to his organization. On the ship to Gabon, forbidden from praying, Bamba is said to have broken his leg irons, leapt overboard into the ocean and prayed on a prayer rug that appeared on the surface of the water or, when the French put him in a furnace, he simply sat down in it and drank tea with Muhammad. In a den of hungry lions, the lions slept beside him, etc.

By 1910, the French realized that Bamba was not interested in waging war against them, and was in fact quite cooperative, eventually releasing him to return to his expanded community. In 1918, he won the French Legion of Honor for enlisting his followers into World War I. The French allowed him to establish his community in Touba, believing in part that his doctrine of hard work could be made to serve French economic interests. The French government allowed his movement to grow, and in 1926, he began work for the great Mosque at Touba, where he is buried. Upon his death in 1927, The Cheikh has been succeeded by his descendants as hereditary leaders of the Brotherhood with absolute authority over their followers.

Murid Islamic Community in America MICA is a non-profit organization was founded in 1989 to spread the teachings of Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba in accordance with the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad. I ask my colleagues and our nation to join me in this special Congressional Recognition in celebration of Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacke Islamic Cultural Week in New York City.

IN HONOR OF JAMES T. MOLLOY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. James T. Molloy, the former Doorkeeper for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Molloy was born in South Buffalo on June 3, 1936, the son of Matthew Molloy (a Buffalo firefighter) and Catherine Hayden Molloy. He graduated from Bishop Timon High School and proceeded to work in waterfront grain elevators. He also joined the Buffalo Fire Department before continuing his education at Canisius College. Upon graduating, Mr. Molloy began teaching in Buffalo and Lackawanna, New York.

Mr. Molloy was a member of the Erie County Democratic Party and later moved to Washington, DC, where he became the Chief Finance Officer of the House of Representatives. In 1974, he became the Doorkeeper of the House, a position that he would hold for the next 20 years. Throughout his tenure as doorkeeper, Mr. Molloy was able to make many friends in Washington, including Speaker Thomas O'Neill, Jr. and President Reagan. He was known around Washington as a "Buffalo Guy." Tom Brokaw called him "the pride of South Buffalo" each year when he introduced Mr. Molloy as the President walked out for the State of the Union.

Mr. Molloy has received many awards throughout his lifetime, including having a U.S.

post office building on South Park Avenue named after him in 2006. He was also recognized by the New York AFL-CIO, the New York State Federation of Police and the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. James T. Malloy, a man whose presence in Washington will be sorely missed.

IN OPPOSITION TO CUTS TO HIGH SPEED RAIL FUNDING

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my opposition to the cuts to high-speed rail included in H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

At a time when this Congress should be focused on creating jobs, investing in our infrastructure, and supporting transportation alternatives, the bill before us unfortunately includes a provision to cut funding for high-speed rail. These cuts are both harmful and short-sighted, and will limit key opportunities for job growth and economic development throughout our nation.

According to a recent study from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, building high-speed rail networks in the U.S. will have a significant positive economic impact. The study shows that in the four urban areas surveyed, high-speed rail could add \$19 billion in new business development and 150,000 jobs. We should not be turning our backs on this historic opportunity.

It is clear: investing in rail, whether it is high-speed, or inter-city, has the potential to create desperately-needed jobs in communities around the country. Case in point: in October last year, a contract awarded to the Siemens Transportation Systems manufacturing plant in my district of Sacramento, California to build 70 new electric trains for Amtrak is creating 200 local jobs—not to mention that they employ approximately 64,000 people throughout the country. Not only is Siemens creating jobs, but they are also building a high-quality product that will make train travel more efficient and environmentally friendly. These trains are built in an environmentally-friendly way, using solar energy developed on site.

In Sacramento, rail is not just a part of our history, it is our future.

In April, we broke ground on a track relocation project that will not only improve safety and efficiency, but will pave the way for the development of both an intermodal transportation facility and future economic growth in our downtown. This project is creating 350 jobs onsite, and 1,100 jobs in total. It will also make room for high-speed rail.

What is happening in Sacramento is a snapshot of the interest in rail statewide. The voters in my home state of California have approved plans to build a high-speed rail network that will eventually link Sacramento to San Diego, and communities throughout the state. This high-speed rail line will create jobs, provide viable transportation options to residents and visitors alike, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

But as forward-thinking as California is, progress will be held back if the provisions to cut high-speed rail funding are included in the final version of this bill.

In my district alone, we would lose millions of dollars intended for rail projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This rescission would result in the loss of many jobs and endanger the necessary safety and efficiency improvements need for the tracks between Sacramento and Davis.

I think we can all agree that now is not the time to remove opportunities for improved job growth and economic recovery. Yet, my Republican colleagues are doing just that by including the elimination of funding for high-speed rail in this bill.

It is my hope that the Senate approves a final bill that restores this funding, and that the President signs into law a bill that appropriately invests in our infrastructure: levees and rail alike.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the first African-American national fraternal organization with roots in a historically African-American college.

The Omega Psi Phi fraternity was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. on November 17, 1911. As illustrated by the prominent careers of its four founders, Bishop Edgar Amos Love, Dr. Oscar James Cooper, Professor Frank Coleman and Dr. Ernest Everett Just, members of Omega Psi Phi are known to go on to successful careers.

Omega Psi Phi is dedicated to the principles of "manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift." The fraternity has also shown a strong commitment to philanthropy and community. It began a National Social Program in 1945 to aid with health, housing, civil rights and educational issues of the African-American community. Furthermore, the fraternity has made annual donations of \$50,000 to the United Negro College Fund since 1955.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, whose members have been strong community supporters and leaders since the fraternity's origin. I wish the alumni and current members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity the best in all of their future endeavors.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1315) to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act," which would weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, just as it is beginning its work on behalf of American consumers. While its supporters claim this bill is innocuous, it would water down the CFPB's ability to issue consumer protections and subject new proposals to an additional layer of bureaucratic review.

It is noteworthy that the Republican majority has brought this bill to the floor one year after Congress passed sweeping reforms and consumer protections for the nation's financial sector, maybe to blunt any press coverage on the launch of the CFPB. With no chance of this bill becoming law, House Republicans are sending a message to big banks and financial institution that they are fighting to protect their interests, not the interests of American consumers.

But House Republicans are sending another message—that they still fail to understand the causes of our current economic troubles. If we have learned any lesson from the financial crisis of the last several years, it should be that by protecting consumers we can protect the rest of the financial system.

It is clear that the consumer credit and housing bubbles of the last decade were the result of unfair and deceptive practices of credit card companies and lenders that steered families into financial products that they did not understand and that they could not afford to repay.

Congressional Republicans claim the CFPB will be a cumbersome bureaucracy that will be a drag on the marketplace. All we need to do is look at the CFPB's first reform effort—simplifying the long, tedious paperwork consumers face when purchasing a home down to a short, simple form—to know that Republican claims have no merit.

I am hearing different messages from consumer advocates like AARP and the Consumer Federation of America and my constituents. They know that transparency in consumer financial products is long overdue and they support the CFPB.

A free marketplace can only function properly if consumers can make well-informed decisions about financial products, whether they are home mortgages or credit cards. The American people deserve a strong, effective CFPB. We should allow it to do its work, and that is why I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY FAIR ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey County Fair on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The mission of

the Fair, to create, produce and offer quality events in their unique setting of 22 oak-studded acres, has educated, entertained and inspired our people for 75 years.

The Monterey County Fairground is a State owned Multi-Use Facility, generating \$22.9 million annually in spending activity over its history and contributing 300 full-time and part-time jobs. This year's theme, chosen by the 7th District Agricultural Association, will be "Horse'n Around" and was inspired by the artwork of artist Jo Mora. This summer, from August 31st to September 5th, livestock demonstrations, displays and auctions will recall and promote the rich agricultural heritage and diverse resources of Monterey County. The money raised from the auctions goes towards scholarships for local students and includes the participation of over 5,000 of Monterey County's youth through the Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs.

The Monterey County Fair prides itself on being an inclusive environment where everyone in Monterey County can join in the festivities. Seniors' Day, Kids' Day, Special Friends' Day and Military Day ensure that citizens of all abilities and income levels can participate and enjoy the fair.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the Monterey County Fair as a model for other community and cultural events. On behalf of the whole House, I acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Monterey County Fair, and invite the community to join the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. May their continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our agricultural and cultural heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 21, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 612.

IN HONOR OF TERRANCE R. DUNCAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of my good friend, Terrance Duncan, who is retiring from the Superior Court of California of Monterey County on August 17, 2011. Terry honorably served as a judicial officer in the Monterey County Courts for over 29 years. We shared the Monterey Court-house as a workplace before he was sworn in as a Court Commissioner.

Since Terry's appointment as a Municipal Court Commissioner in 1982, he worked tirelessly to help serve justice in Monterey County. In 1995 he was elected as a Municipal Court Judge and elevated to the Superior Court in 2000. As a judge Terry presided over thousands of criminal and civil cases in Salinas, Monterey, and King City. From 2003 to 2005 he served as the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Terry's dedication to the teaching of the legal system is inspiring. He served as an instructor for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research where he taught judicial skills and ethics to both new and experienced Judges. Throughout California, Terry educated students in places like the California Judicial College, the Stanford Law School Trial Advocacy Program and the Monterey College of Law Community Education Program.

Terry has also been an active member of the legal community by being a part of many prestigious organizations. He served as an Officer and Director of the California Judges' Association, was President of the California Court Commissioners' Association, and he was also the President of the Board of Trustees of the Monterey College of Law.

Not only is Terry an active member of his professional community but he has also been heavily involved with helping the community of Monterey County. He was the founder in 1989 and President of Monterey County Sober Graduation which is an all-volunteer organization that introduced the concept of sober graduation activities for high school seniors. Terry was also President of the Monterey Kiwanis Club and director of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP). SCRAMP is an organization that makes major donations to charities each year. Terry also served as a Board President of the Beacon House alcohol recovery home in Pacific Grove, along with numerous other community activities serving those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I commend the contribution Terry has made to Monterey County's justice system. This is not the end of a career of service to the legal system for I know that Terrance will continue to serve the County of Monterey and the legal community in other capacities. Our region is fortunate to have the quality of leadership that Judge Terrance Duncan exemplifies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS NICOLE EMMONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE MILITARY TIMES COAST GUARD SERVICE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marine Science Technician Second Class Nicole Emmons, of Clearwater Florida, for her selection as the Military Times Coast Guard Service Member of the Year. Nicole exemplifies the best in our nation's military and serves as a shining example of how one person can make an impact at the community, the state and the national level.

Nicole Emmons was chosen as both the Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, Louisiana and the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston's Enlisted Person of the Year by area Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs. Working with the Contingency Preparedness/ Incident Management Division at Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, Nicole contributed countless hours to stand-up her unit's first Homeland Security Division. As one of three Law

Enforcement instructors, she shoulders significant responsibility. She organizes a month-long training program for new members, leads hands-on practice sessions and organizes qualifications boards. Nicole Emmons also worked during off-duty hours in mission requirements associated with specially targeted vessels and has participated in over 20 security boardings.

Displaying exceptional initiative, she deployed to the Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur Incident Command Post, providing her expertise as a Situation Unit Leader in the aftermath of the EAGLE OTOME's 450,000 gallon crude oil spill. She filled a key role in providing operational commanders with continuous feedback regarding the progress of the clean-up efforts and was awarded the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, she was awarded the Coast Guard's Special Operations Ribbon for training reservist pollution investigators. In November of 2010, she transferred to the Planning Division and immediately accepted several large areas of responsibility well above her pay grade, including providing critical updates needed for the Geographic Response Plan and Area Response Plan.

Nicole Emmons also serves her community. She helped create the unit's Moving Assistance Team to minimize the financial burden of local moves for fellow shipmates. She is a founding member of her unit's COMPASS program, which promotes community outreach and diversity education in local high schools. Serving as the Vice President of the Human Relations Council, she helps to provide a safe, open forum for discussing human relation issues and celebrating different cultures.

Nicole Emmons' service to the community also includes volunteering for the local Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Lunch Buddy program and mentoring an academically and socially challenged child. She has participated in charity fund-raising and community events, such as the Ethel Precht Breast Cancer 3K, the Coast Guard Relay for Life and volunteering for the Lake Charles Special Olympics Torch Run.

Along with all of her numerous career achievements, Nicole holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Marine Science Technician Second Class Nicole Emmons for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country through her outstanding performance in the United States Coast Guard and her community. We wish Nicole, her husband Michael, and her family all the best in her remarkably bright future.

HONORING MR. LOU VIVERITO AND
STICKNEY TOWNSHIP FOR EXPANDING
HEALTHCARE CLINIC

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lou Viverito, President of Stickney

Public Health District, and to recognize his efforts in constructing a new wing to a medical center in Stickney, Illinois. The wing, which opened on July 23, 2011, will provide quality healthcare for the residents of Stickney, a township in my district, for generations to come.

Mr. Viverito's career in public service spans five decades, starting in 1965. Since that time, he has held many positions, but public health has always been his passion. He has served as a State Senator, reaching positions of leadership in that capacity. Mr. Viverito was elected President of Stickney Public Health District in 1973, and has worked tirelessly for his constituents in Stickney since then. Mr. Viverito's decades of work will culminate in a brand new section of Stickney's health center that will preserve the wellbeing of thousands over the next several decades.

Stickney's new medical center stands as a testament to dedicated public service and intelligent public policy. The six million dollar health center will open after years of work from public servants who put the needs of their citizenry first: the Officials of Stickney Township, the Stickney Public Health District, and especially Lou Viverito. The project was completed without any increases in taxes and without a bond issue, showing how responsible planners can bring substantial public good to a community without the need for public debt.

The medical center is a continuation of a long history of quality health care for the residents of Stickney. Since the founding of Stickney's Public Health District in 1946, residents have enjoyed excellent care for little or no cost. Medical professionals will continue to offer ambulatory health care, podiatry, immunizations, maternal health, WIC nutrition programs, school health services, communicable disease control, chronic disease management, elderly community care, behavioral health, and dental services in this state-of-the-art facility.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Viverito, the Officials of Stickney Township, and the Stickney Public Health District on their accomplishment. I know this project will have wide-ranging positive effects for Stickney residents for years, and I thank Mr. Viverito for his pivotal role in bringing this idea to fruition.

VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE RELIEF ACT OF 2011

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, from 1961 to 1971, approximately 19 million gallons of fifteen different herbicides, including 13 million gallons of Agent Orange, were sprayed over the southern region of Vietnam. Many, including Agent Orange were based with the toxic contaminant, known as dioxin.

It is estimated that between 2.1 million and 4.8 million Vietnamese people were present during the spraying of Agent Orange and other herbicides and many more were or continue to be exposed through contact with the environment and food that was contaminated, or as offspring of those exposed who now suffer from illnesses and deformities.

Today there are still dozens of environmental hot spots in Vietnam which contami-

nate the food, soil, sediment and wildlife and continue to expose Vietnamese to dioxin.

Agent Orange exposure continues to negatively affect the lives of men and women in Vietnam and in the United States. Many victims' lives are cut short and others live with disease, disabilities and pain, often untreated or unrecognized.

Therefore, Congress resolves to address and remediate the ongoing problems and concerns that arose or will arise from the use of these deadly Agents during the Vietnam War in both the United States and in Vietnam.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2634.

DOG PARK COMPETITION OFFERS LESSON OF UNITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the dog days of summer, exacerbated by the hot air sometimes generated in this city, are contributing to our current budget morass. Rather than throwing our hands up, and saying everything is going to the dogs, I want to share with our colleagues, that man's best friend, and maybe our only friend in this city, Mr. Speaker, can be a rallying cry for unity and a lesson on how to get things done.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the good people of Huntington, West Virginia, are rallying support for their city in a nationwide contest that has a grand prize of \$100,000 to construct the town's first off-leash dog park.

Huntington is a town devoted to beautiful, peaceful and useful parks, and has a long and proud history of maintaining a grand system of parks. Moreover, Huntington has a tradition of coming together, when it seems the world as they know it, is coming apart. I refer of course to the tragic loss of Marshall University's football team in 1970. Ultimately, and with sheer determination as their only ally at times, the University and the City produced National Championship teams. Herein, I do believe, lie lessons for our fellow Americans, for the members of this body, and the entire Congress.

At last count, Huntington was in first place in the contest that will be decided by Internet voting and ends next week. Local businesses and media are all supporting this community driven effort. This past weekend, Hillbilly Hot Dogs in downtown Huntington sponsored a hot dog eating contest to draw attention to the campaign. As the winning contestant Ron Clark said, the proposed park can be a "good place to make great friends." Maybe members of this body ought to take a few minutes each morning to walk their pooches and pass some pleasantries with their colleagues.

My little dog, Billie Sue, will enjoy romping with Huntington's proud pets in their newest park and I look forward to chatting with my constituents old and new. Whatever the final outcome however, Huntington will have fiercely and fairly campaigned to the final second. But I know I join Huntingtonians in saluting every community taking part in this contest that has reawakened pride, stirred spirit and strengthened ties across the country. Huntington will always be in first place with that commitment. I ask my colleagues to reflect

upon Huntington's example in the coming days.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DEACON HORACE A. MCKNIGHT,
II

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this communication is forwarded with great love, respect and admiration on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Deacon Horace A. McKnight, II.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of this most loved and admired gentleman, who, by his sheer determination served his country, his community, his church and most proudly, his family, immediate and extended. Mr. McKnight, a World War II Veteran served valiantly for an ideal, a place in his heart that would be a testament to one's ability to rise above the mediocre and the perceived notions of others, in order to serve the common good for all. His was a selfless and true act of patriotism and love of country and he perhaps knew that with such service, the lives of his flintily and his fellow countrymen would be made better. He was right, and his act of service at that time in our history and his dedication, helped shape the social direction of an entire nation and paved the way for all he was to accomplish and did, for many to benefit from.

Horace McKnight, husband to his beloved childhood sweetheart Delia of forty-seven years, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, church and community leader and entrepreneur, was and shall always be our example of a leader and caring man, deserving of all the accolades and acknowledgements received and most deserved. This quiet, calm, confident gentleman and "Chief Deacon", was a giant among men who saw a job and just got it done, without fanfare or applause. It is this manner of applause, great respect and love we now bestow upon our dear Horace. And in so doing, we say thank you for all you have done, for all you stand for and most assuredly, for all that you have meant to so many of us. We are eternally grateful for having known, loved and respected Horace McKnight, and are blessed for, and by, his manner of life, living and giving. A true gentleman was he. God Bless each one, and may the memory of Deacon Horace A. McKnight remain with you always.

HONORING HAL DAVID

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Hal David on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Hal is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his ability to touch the lives of others through the art of songwriting.

Hal is a first-generation American, born in Brooklyn to immigrant parents. One of his earliest ventures in using his musical talents to help others occurred when he served in the U.S. Army Entertainment Section during World War II, along with his colleagues Carl Reiner and Werner Klemperer. Four years after the conclusion of the war, Hal—along with Don Rodney—co-wrote his first hit record, "The Four Winds and the Seven Seas" recorded by Vic Damone. Hal continued to write hits, including "Bell Bottom Blues" for Teresa Brewer, "Brokenhearted Melody" for Sarah Vaughan and "Johnny Get Angry" for Joanie Sommers.

Hal then began his legendary collaboration with composer Burt Bacharach. The two comprised one of the best-known songwriting teams of the 50's and 60's. The incredibly prolific duo Hal and Burt wrote four songs that were nominated for Academy Awards, with "Raindrops" from the 1969 film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* winning the Oscar for "Best Song." The two also co-wrote the score for the hit 1968 Broadway musical *Promises, Promises*, for which the original cast recording won a Grammy Award. The show was revived last year with Hal's original lyrics.

In addition to his career as a lyricist, Hal also served as President of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. I was fortunate enough to meet and work with him during these years. Hal's devotion to his art was apparent as he led the battle against source licensing efforts and today he continues to serve on ASCAP's Board of Directors.

Hal also spent ten years as the Chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. During his tenure, the Songwriters Hall of Fame established an important digital presence and launched a gallery at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

As a result of his professional accomplishments, Hal has been inducted into both the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has also received the prestigious Songwriters Hall of Fame Towering Song Award and its Johnny Mercer Award. Hal has also been honored with The Recording Academy's Grammy Trustees Award and the British Performing Rights Society's Ivor Novello Award, becoming the first American citizen ever to receive that award. He is also listed as a "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" at the Los Angeles Music

Center and serves as a member of the Board of Governors at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in thanking Hal for the joy his music has brought to our lives, and in wishing him a happy birthday and many happy returns.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM R. TRACY ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF COLONEL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and constituent of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, Lieutenant Colonel William R. Tracy. On July 29th, 2011, he will be promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force. William Tracy's talent and commitment were obvious 25 years ago when he received his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy from my father, Representative William O. Lipinski. I am privileged today to recognize Lt. Col. Tracy for his exemplary service to our country.

Upon his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy in 1990 as a Second Lieutenant, Lt. Col. Tracy served for three years as a maintenance officer at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. After his completion of flight training to become an F-15C Eagle Pilot, Lt. Col. Tracy served at Tyndall Air Force Base. Over the past 17 years he has accumulated more than 2,000 flying hours, including participation in no-fly missions over both northern and southern Iraq. While taking part in these no-fly missions, Lt. Col. Tracy was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries sustained when an insurgent's bomb exploded near him in Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Col. Tracy graduated in the top ten percent of his class at the Air Force Staff and Command Academy, demonstrating his intellect and work ethic, and received his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel upon graduation from the Air Force War College. Due to his excellent leadership qualities, the Air Force placed Lt. Col. Tracy as commanding officer of a Test and Evaluation Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, where he currently serves today.

I would like to recognize the dedication, skill, and valor Lt. Col. Tracy has displayed throughout his career in the United States Air Force. We are all thankful for his service and the sacrifices he has made during his lifetime of service to the United States. I congratulate Lt. Col. William R. Tracy on his promotion and I will continue to follow his career closely as he continues to be an asset to our armed services.

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, July 26, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 27

10 a.m.
 Finance
 To hold hearings to examine chief executive officer (CEO) perspectives on how the tax code affects hiring, businesses and economic growth. SD-215
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine ten years after 9/11, focusing on emergency communications. SD-342
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine fulfilling our treaty obligations and protecting Americans abroad. SD-226
 Appropriations
 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Education. SD-124
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the lifetime costs of supporting the newest generation of veterans. SD-562
 Joint Economic Committee
 To hold hearings to examine maximizing America's prosperity, focusing on how fiscal rules can restrain Federal over-spending. SH-216
 10:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine defending United States economic interests in the changing arctic, focusing on if there is a strategy. SR-253
 2 p.m.
 Armed Services
 Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine financial management and business transformation at the Department of Defense. SR-232A

2:30 p.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine improving highway and vehicle safety, focusing on reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. SR-253
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Edgardo Ramos, of Connecticut, Andrew L. Carter, Jr., and Jesse M. Furman, all to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, James Rodney Gilstrap, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and Jennifer Guerin Zippis, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. SD-226

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Brian T. Baenig, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine opportunities for specialty crops and organics in the farm bill. SD-G50
 Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, and Lieutenant General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., USA to be general and to be Commander, United States Northern Command, and Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, both of the Department of Defense. SD-106
 9:45 a.m.
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fees, focusing on advancing public health. SD-430
 10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine aviation fuels, focusing on needs, challenges, and alternatives. SR-253
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charles DeWitt McConnell, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy, and Rebecca R. Wodder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife. SD-366
 Finance
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janice Eberly, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Juan F. Vasquez, of Texas, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. SD-215
 Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider S. 401, to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law, S. 657, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement

officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, S. 409, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs, S. 605, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I, S. 839, to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs, and the nominations of Steve Six, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Scott Wesley Skavdahl, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Sharon L. Gleason, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Richard G. Andrews, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware. SD-226

1:30 p.m.
 Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 To hold hearings to examine United States policy and the Organization for Co-operation in Europe, focusing on making good on commitments and challenges, including unresolved conflicts, ethnic tension, corruption and lack of governance, racism and intolerance, and trafficking in persons. 210, Cannon Building
 2 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine Federal disaster assistance budgeting, focusing on the role of the Federal government in mitigating the economic impact of severe weather events through long-term budgetary planning. SD-138
 2:15 p.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcing the "Indian Gaming Regulatory Act", focusing on the role of the National Indian Gaming Commission and tribes as regulators. SD-628
 2:30 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, and Robert G. Taub, of New York, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission. SD-342
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 264, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, S. 265, to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park, S. 324, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, S. 764, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon, S. 864, to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, S. 883, to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor

free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution, S. 888, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 925, to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence, S. 970, to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1063, to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, and S. 1134, to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.

SD-366

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

AUGUST 2

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health reform and health insurance premiums,

focusing on empowering states to serve consumers.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, and Norman L. Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

AUGUST 3

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and S. 1094, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416), an original bill entitled, "Workforce Investment Act Reauthor-

ization of 2011", and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine cybercrime, focusing on updating the "Computer Fraud and Abuse Act" to protect cyberspace and combat emerging threats.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1024, to designate the Organ Mountains and other public land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Landscape Conservation System in the State of New Mexico, S. 1090, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, S. 1144, to amend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 to extend the reduced royalty rate for soda ash, S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, and S. 1344, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona.

SD-366