

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BILL COSBY, WINNER OF THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE FOR HUMOR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a hometown hero and constituent of mine—the distinguished and very funny Philadelphian, William Henry Cosby, Jr.

Bill Cosby has been tickling the nation's funny-bone and prodding its conscience throughout his adult life. He has won a trophy room of honors, but none like this one. Bill Cosby's talents and his insight have earned him the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, awarded by the Kennedy Center on October 26, 2009. The star-studded and laugh-filled presentation will be shown on PBS nationally on Wednesday, November 4, always one of PBS's most popular and acclaimed programs.

Bill Cosby—aka Heathcliff Huxtable, friend of Fat Albert, “America's Dad”—is no stranger to the nation's viewers and comedy fans. Less well known, but looming large in terms of character and values, is the Bill Cosby who has served as role model, activist, educator, author, anti-violence crusader, fundraiser and valued citizen of his native Philadelphia.

Bill Cosby was born in the Germantown section of Philadelphia into a modest family that valued hard work—the son of a maid and a Navy cook. He was raised in the Richard Allen Projects, attending Channing Wister Elementary, Fitzsimons Junior High, Central and Germantown High Schools, playing various roles as class clown, class president, star athlete, shoe repair apprentice, produce seller, and ultimately Navy hospital corpsman.

As a young adult he began a lifetime relationship with Philadelphia's premier public institution of higher learning, Temple University. Building on his high school equivalency diploma, earned through correspondence courses, he enrolled in Temple in 1961 on a track and field scholarship, also playing full-back. Cosby, telling jokes as he earned a living, interrupted his studies to pursue show business, returned to academia and ultimately received a bachelor's degree from Temple.

Eventually Bill Cosby would become Doctor Cosby. He earned a masters and a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, a springboard to his later involvement in advocating for educational opportunity. But Bill Cosby, proud alum, has never left the Temple family, happily donning the cherry and white for football and basketball games, cheering on the Owls during and after the tenure of his close friend, Coach John Chaney.

Cheerleading isn't all Bill Cosby has done for Temple. He has endowed scholarships (including one for graduates of Philadelphia schools he attended), established a lecture se-

ries, generated the University's Cosby Scholarship Committee of the Provost's office, appeared at numerous fundraisers and alumni functions, and served as the public face for Temple on countless occasions.

Another side of the Bill Cosby Philadelphia Story is his anti-violence work. I have marched with Bill Cosby and my friend Bilal Qayyum through the streets of our city beneath the banner of Men United for a Better Philadelphia to denounce the scourge of violence, murder and gang activity. He has been outspoken—and raised considerable controversy—in denouncing the gang-minded culture and the negative, hateful cultural influences that fan street violence among our youth. He aimed his toughest words at parents, calling on them to step up and take responsibility for their children's education, safety and values.

Education has been another Cosby cause. He and I share the passion for leveling the playing field, providing every child the resources, the quality teachers and the full opportunity to achieve his or her dreams. Earlier this year he donned a T-shirt from Central High School to stand with Governor Ed Rendell and advocate for fairer school funding.

In his famous 2004 “Pound Cake Speech” Bill Cosby raised some hackles by telling African American parents they need to do a better job teaching their children morals at home. He chided those who “had forgotten the sacrifices of those in the civil rights movement” and declared that many young African Americans put too much emphasis on sports, fashion, and acting tough in the streets.

The controversies raised by Bill Cosby still ripple through communities of color, but the points he raises are valid. And of course he has never lost his sense of humor. In all these ways, Bill Cosby is a worthy recipient of the Mark Twain Prize and the legacy of Mark Twain himself.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and thanking Bill Cosby, Philadelphian and American, upon this great occasion.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENSENVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of Bensenville, Illinois, in the heart of my Congressional District.

In 1884, the Village of Bensenville was incorporated, and George Cogswell became its first President.

In the years since its humble founding, Bensenville has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to busi-

nesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Over the years, Bensenville has developed a well-deserved reputation as an enjoyable place to live, work and raise a family.

On the occasion of this 125th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Bensenville's legacy of growth and prosperity, and to look ahead to the opportunities facing our local community and our nation. Today both marks 125 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Bensenville Village President Frank Soto, the Village Board of Trustees and the citizens of Bensenville in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. In particular, I would like to express my support for Section 220, which requires that Coast Guard vessels homeported in Guam be repaired, overhauled and maintained at American facilities. This provision was included in H.R. 2830 the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act from the 110th Congress and which was included in a manager's amendment that was adopted on the floor. I appreciate Chairman OBERSTAR's and Chairman CUMMING's continued support for including this provision in this bill.

This section clarifies a current loophole in statute that will ensure that Coast Guard ships that protect the waterways of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the Federated States of Micronesia will be repaired by American workers. Furthermore, the maintenance funds authorized and appropriated by this body will be reinvested in the American economy. This is a common sense provision that simply extends to Guam the same repair American provisions that already apply to the rest of the United States. Again, I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman OBERSTAR of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and to Chairman CUMMINGS of the Coast Guard Subcommittee for their leadership on this bill and for including this provision.

• 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.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers—Huntington District
Address of Requesting Entity: 502 Eighth
Street, Huntington, WV 25701

Description of Request: Appropriate \$1,793,000 for the Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Study, WV, KY, OH, PA, IL, VA, AL, TN, NY, MD, NC, MS & GA. Funds will help to complete the Reconnaissance Report and initiate the Feasibility Report. This project is an important use of taxpayer dollars because it is the first step in the development of a comprehensive analysis and strategy for the administration and management of the Ohio River Basin system. The project will eventually identify and document stakeholders and their needs for water resources products and services that are now or could be generated by the current system and will determine the current condition of the system infrastructure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOE MASELLI

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor my friend Joe Maselli, the son of Italian immigrants who passed away on October 18, 2009. Joe Maselli was a proud New Orleanian for over 60 years. He may best be known as a proud and tireless advocate for the preservation of Italian heritage and culture, and a devoted family man.

Joe Maselli earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University and served for three years in the U.S. Army.

Joe devoted much of his life to the celebration of the Italian cultural contribution to America. He helped create the Italian Village at the 1984 Worlds Fair in New Orleans, and founded the American-Italian Renaissance Foundation, as well as the American-Italian Sports Hall of Fame, which awards scholarships to up and coming athletes and scholars.

Joe was an Ethnic Affairs Advisor to Presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan. In 1992, the Governor of Louisiana chose him to chair the Louisiana Quincentenary Commission honoring Louisiana's 500th Anniversary.

Even with all of Joe's accomplishments, he always put his family first. Joe is survived by his wife of 63 years, Antoinette Cammarata, their four children, and eight grandchildren, which I know he considered his greatest accomplishments.

I extend my sincere condolences to the Maselli family and will work to ensure that the distinguished legacy of my friend Joe Maselli is not forgotten by future generations.

COLUMN: NET NEUTRALITY ISN'T A NEUTRAL TERM, AND IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE NET

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following column, written by David Nicklaus of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

NET NEUTRALITY ISN'T A NEUTRAL TERM, AND IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE NET

David Nicklaus, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Some beats, like banking, need tougher cops, but others, like the Internet, are doing fine with no cop at all.

So when the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission weighs in on an important Internet issue by vowing to become "a smart cop on the beat," we should worry that the Web's best years, characterized by rapid growth with little regulation, may be behind it.

Of course, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski doesn't characterize his stance that way. His idea of a "smart cop" is one who enforces the principle that all Internet traffic should be treated equally. And he argues that his brand of policing will encourage innovation, not stifle it.

The principle Genachowski endorsed this week—and one he intends to codify into FCC regulations—is referred to as net neutrality. Despite the lofty-sounding name, however, a net neutrality rule wouldn't be neutral. It would amount to favoring one group of Internet companies, the content creators, in an ongoing turf battle with broadband providers.

Broadband firms, like AT&T, Verizon and the cable TV industry, own the Internet's infrastructure. Companies like Google and eBay own the content that travels over those broadband networks.

These two groups obviously need each other, but that doesn't mean they have to like each other.

A net neutrality rule would require broadband providers to treat all content alike in terms of pricing and access. Without it, content companies worry they might face an extra fee for speedy delivery of bandwidth-gobbling applications, like video downloading sites or Internet telephone services.

Say Microsoft, for example, paid the fee, but Google didn't. Microsoft's site would get an unfair advantage, the net neutrality advocates argue, allowing the Verizons of the world to pick winners and losers—and perhaps to snuff out competitors of their own video and phone businesses.

The broadband companies counter that they have invested huge sums in Internet infrastructure, including \$70 billion last year alone. They generally don't use discriminatory pricing now, but some people in the industry think it would be one way to pay for a next-generation network that could carry far more data at faster speeds.

If those investments aren't made, the information superhighway will eventually look like I-70 at rush hour, with video file-sharers slowing things down for the folks who just want to read e-mail or check an airline schedule.

Scott Cleland, a consultant who runs the broadband-industry-backed site NetCompetition.org, says a strict net neutrality regime would discourage infrastructure investment and make the Internet less secure. If the network owners can't discriminate among forms of content, he argues, they would lose their ability to root out viruses and other malware.

Cleland may be overstating the security argument. Any reasonable FCC regulation would surely allow the broadband companies to police their networks for harmful files. His larger point, though, is a good one: Why risk messing up something that isn't broken?

Existing antitrust law should prevent, say, AT&T from discriminating against an Internet-phone competitor like Skype. Beyond such an obvious abuse, it's hard to see what harm can come from letting the broadband firms price their network however they want.

It's often said that on the Internet, information wants to be free. That four-letter word has two meanings—free as in zero cost, and free as in unregulated and unrestricted—and they are at odds in this debate.

If we impose regulations just to keep down the cost of certain services, we may find that we've lost the very freedom that makes the Internet so successful and so valuable.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI- VERSARY OF STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PALOS HILLS, ILLI- NOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate 100 years of community, faith and service. Throughout their history, the parishioners of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church have strived to embody their calling as members of the community of faith, and in doing so have served commendably as a pillar of the Palos Hills community.

Originally located on South Michigan Avenue in 1909, Sts. Constantine & Helen relocated in 1926 when a fire consumed the building, and then relocated to its new location on the corner of 111th Street and Roberts Road in Palos Hills with an opening ceremony in 1976.

Today, Sts. Constantine & Helen is as vibrant as ever under the faithful guidance of Rev. Nick Jonas, and the parish continues to serve the worship needs of over 400 families. The church is expecting some 1,200 participants at its centennial celebration on October 24, at which time Rev. Byron Papanikolaou will also mark his incredible 50th year with the congregation.

It is my honor to recognize Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The parish has fulfilled a vision of a proud community that works together, learns together, and worships together. With its legacy of remarkable pastors and committed parishioners, the parish is truly deserving of this recognition.

HONORING THE FISHER HOUSE
AND THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF
CENTRAL PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican Club of Central Pasco County for their support of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women: they sit up at night waiting for their phone call and they send them comforts from home to sustain them while they fight for our freedom a half a world away.

Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home".

Since it opened its doors in 2007, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200 people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, the Fisher House program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House.

The Republican Club of Central Pasco County, Florida, continually supports the Fisher House Foundation and our military men and women. This weekend, they will host the 2nd biennial event, "A Night for Heroes" in support of the Fisher House Foundation.

Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our Nation; it is our duty to support them. The Republican Club of Central Pasco County has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress, I thank them for their unyielding commitment to this most important cause.

**COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I want to applaud my friend, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR,

and his committee for putting together a strong bill that invests in the needs of our Coast Guard. This bill makes many key investments in the ability of our Coast Guard to protect our nation, guard our waterways, and make sure it is "always ready" to respond.

However, I rise today in reluctant opposition to this bill because of the very significant changes it makes to the admissions process for the United States Coast Guard Academy.

As many of my colleagues know, the Coast Guard Academy is located in my district, in New London, Connecticut. Established at Fort Trumbull in 1910 first as the School of Instruction to the U.S. Revenue Cutter Academy and then as the U.S. Coast Guard Academy after the consolidation of the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915, the Academy has been a part of New London at its present site since 1932. Over its last century in New London, the Academy has helped to train, educate and shape generations of young leaders of the Coast Guard.

Today, the Coast Guard Academy is a highly competitive educational institution. Called "the best kept secret in higher education" by the Princeton Review, it is a challenging school that attracts driven, committed leaders who go on to serve our nation in the many diverse roles played by our Coast Guard today. In fact, the number of applicants who said that they were not seeking admission to one of the other service academies—that the Coast Guard Academy was their first choice—rose from 61 percent of the class of 2009 to 66 percent of the class of 2011.

As of July 2009, the Coast Guard Academy had 973 cadets enrolled representing 43 states and 15 foreign nations. For the newest class, the class of 2013, 1,672 completed the application process, 411 were offered appointments to the Academy, and 288 cadets—17 percent of those who applied—were sworn in. Nearly 80 percent of Academy graduates go on to graduate programs, with most paid for by the Coast Guard, and 85 percent of graduates choose to serve beyond their required five-year commitment.

The Academy is particularly proud of its high recruitment of women cadets. Of the total corps of cadets, 27 percent are women: 23 percent female in the class of 2010, 30 percent in the class of 2011, 28 percent in the class of 2012, and 29 percent in the class of 2013. Its success in this area sets the Coast Guard Academy apart from other service academies, and is worthy of recognition.

However, there are two areas in which both the Congress and the Coast Guard Academy agree that there is some work to do—the recruitment of underrepresented minorities in the cadet corps, as well as a lack of geographical diversity. I absolutely believe that, as a publicly funded institution, the Coast Guard Academy should represent a cross-section of our society, reflecting the racial, gender and geographic composition of our nation. Any young person, regardless of race, gender or geographic location, should have the opportunity to serve our nation as an officer in the Coast Guard.

In my ongoing discussions with the leadership of the Coast Guard Academy, they have made clear that some of their top priorities include increasing diversity, both of underrepresented minorities and geographical regions, and spreading the word about the excellent education it has to offer to a wider audience. While involving Members of Congress in the application process may be one of the answers to these challenges, there are likely other ways to achieve these goals that should be considered as well before taking this step.

For example, the Academy has significantly increased its efforts to get the word out about their unique institution and what they have to offer to underrepresented minority and geographic populations. For example, they are specifically directing recruitment efforts through mailings, advertising on online college search websites, and ramping up efforts to get recruiters in cities and regions with high minority populations, as well as those states and regions not typically represented at the Academy.

There is some indication that these efforts are paying off. For instance, compared to last year, inquiries to the Academy by minority students are up 40 percent to 1,800. And, online applications from minority students are up 34 percent to 317.

In addition, the Coast Guard Academy recently released a comprehensive Strategic Plan focusing on diversity, leadership, and character development. This plan outlines a clear goal of achieving 20–25 percent representation by underrepresented minorities by 2015, and in faculty and staff by 2020. This plan is getting off the ground now.

Even without congressional nominations, there is much each of us can do to contribute to the makeup of the Academy. For example, we can all include Coast Guard Academy admissions information our offices distribute related to service academy nominations, and direct interested constituents to the institution. And, we can ensure that our websites include information about the Academy. Earlier this year, a survey of congressional websites showed that over half made no mention of the Coast Guard Academy and did not post a link or other information about the institution. In March, I circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter urging that Members make sure their websites reflect this important information—and I will continue to work with my colleagues to encourage them to do so.

I strongly believe that any change to the application process or the character of the institution must be carefully considered, hand in hand with the Academy, before moving forward. The manager's amendment to this bill included a provision to require the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to evaluate the Coast Guard Academy's efforts to improve minority and geographic diversity. While I strongly support this review and look forward to its findings, I am disappointed that this

kind of evaluation was not done first before pursuing changes to the existing admissions process.

To this end, I reluctantly oppose the Coast Guard authorization bill, and hope to continue to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate, as well as the leadership of the Academy, to address these concerns.

SOLAR TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3585) to guide and provide for United States research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes:

Mr. WU. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3585, the Solar Technology Road-Map Act. I want to commend Chairman GORDON for his efforts to bring this bill to the floor, and Ms. GIFFORDS for her continued leadership on solar technology.

H.R. 3585 provides funding for solar technology research, development and demonstration activities. It also creates a committee to develop a road map that will assess the near-, mid- and long-term needs for solar research. This assessment will become the basis for future investments in solar energy by the Department of Energy.

My district is a great example of the potential for solar energy. Not because of the amount of sun it receives, but because of the number of jobs it has created. Solar World, a solar panel manufacturer, has its U.S. headquarters located in Hillsboro, Oregon and employs 1,000 people building solar panels and produces enough PV panels to supply the entire North and South American markets. With our state's unemployment rate hovering above 11 percent, this company's investment in our state during these difficult times is welcome news. It is my hope that a continued investment in solar energy will result in thousands of more jobs in the coming years.

We have been working to diversify our energy portfolio to create and develop renewable energy sources and reduce our dependence on foreign fossil fuels. This bill will create further research opportunities for solar technology and will create a plan that will guide our future investments in solar energy.

This bill will help build upon the success of previous investments. It is about economic competitiveness and job creation as much as it is about clean renewable energy and less dependence on imported fuels. Again I thank Chairman GORDON and Ms. GIFFORDS for their leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for several votes taken on

the House floor yesterday afternoon, Thursday, October 22, 2009, due to illness. As a result, I missed rollcall votes No. 801 through No. 811. Had I been present: on rollcall vote No. 801 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 802 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 803 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 804 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 805 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 806 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 807 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 808 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 809 I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 810 I would have voted "aye"; and on rollcall vote No. 811 I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE CITY OF INVERNESS, CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Inverness, Florida; they have been designated the "National City of the Year" by the veterans honor organization, the Forty & Eight.

Since 1920, the Forty & Eight organization has worked tirelessly to insure that the legacies of our service members endure alongside the freedom that they fought so selflessly to defend. They are committed to serving our veterans and their families: those who are still with us, those who have gone before us and those whose fate is still yet unknown.

John Kaiserian is the Grand Chef de Train of the Forty & Eight and a member of Voiture 1219 of Citrus County, Florida. He cited several factors which contributed to the City of Inverness receiving top honors on both the state and national level. Among them were the city's numerous parades and ceremonies honoring veterans, monuments that they have erected to honor those killed in combat, the annual Patriotic Evening on July 3rd and the City's very own Liberty Park. He refers to Inverness as Citrus County's "veterans' city".

On September 9, 2009, City Manager Frank DiGiovanni, City Clerk Debbie Davis and Mayor Bob Plaisted traveled to Rochester, New York to proudly accept the award on the city's behalf. They recognized the support of local residents and veterans' organizations that made the award possible. They especially thanked the veterans for all they have given to this country: City Manager, Frank DiGiovanni said, "Loss of life is the ultimate sacrifice and many have given all".

Madam Speaker, the Forty & Eight organization captures the American spirit in communities all across the country. I am honored and very proud to recognize Inverness, Florida as the Forty & Eight "National City of the Year".

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 2006, I supported the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act which reauthorized the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program and included important provisions that sunset the program's authorizations. However, the 2009 reauthorization bill, S. 1793, that the House passed on October 21, 2009 repeals all prior sunset provisions. With the current budgetary fiasco facing the federal government, the need for provisions that would sunset program authorizations is more pronounced now than ever. Congress constantly creates new programs with little or no thought to the amount of money that will be needed to finance its eternal life. The thought seems to be that a billion dollars for any specific purpose is so minuscule when compared to the federal deficit that one cannot resist supporting worthy causes and efforts. The problem is that this excuse occurs on a daily basis around here. Collectively, that mentality is what has led us to the insurmountable federal spending levels currently threatening the economy and overall strength of the U.S. dollar.

One simple way to help combat that mentality is the inclusion of provisions that sunset program authorizations. This is a common-sense, prudent and simple step that can be taken regularly to help keep us honest. If a program is worth continuing, its purpose and effectiveness should be defensible in the future. If it is not defensible, then committees can reevaluate and retool its functioning to help restore accountability. Moreover, committee chairmen should wholeheartedly support sunset provisions as their inclusion would more regularly work towards shaping policies under their purview. Some may argue that the programs are too plentiful and the task too overwhelming for Congress to evaluate effectively on a regular basis. This is all the more reason to fight for smaller government, and terminating ineffective and duplicative programs. Congress must put the necessary accountability and oversight measures in place to ensure that American tax dollars are being well spent on worthy, well-functioning priorities.

S. 1793 authorizes the appropriation of about \$2.55 billion for fiscal year 2010, a 14 percent increase from the appropriation the program received in fiscal year 2009 of \$2.213 billion. The bill increases the program's overall authorization levels by an automatic 5 percent each year for total of \$8.44 billion over the 2010-2013 period. In comparison the federal government sought only to increase the defense budget by 3 percent. What is additionally troubling is that there is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report available estimating how much this program could cost. Moreover, S. 1793 was considered under a suspension of the House rules, leaving no opportunity for members to amend the bill to address any of these concerns. Therefore, I could not in good conscience support a bill with such a large increase in authorizations coupled with no CBO score or a sunset provision.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the manager's amendment and the underlying legislation.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his hard work on this bill.

As someone who represents over 200 miles of coastline, I am keenly aware of the importance of the Coast Guard and this legislation.

H.R. 3619 provides the Coast Guard, including the 3 stations located in my congressional district, with the resources it needs to meet an ever-increasing workload—from search and rescue and terrorism protection to fisheries law enforcement and oil spill cleanup.

I also want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for including the amendment I submitted to the Rules Committee within his manager's amendment.

My amendment would require the Coast Guard to report to Congress on the most frequent sources of human error that have led to oil spills from vessels, as well as on the most significant types of "near miss" incidents.

The amendment would also require the Coast Guard to use these findings to take appropriate action domestically and at the International Maritime Organization to reduce the risk of oil spills due to human error.

The consideration of this amendment, Madam Chair, could not be more timely.

Earlier this week we learned that more than 18,000 gallons of fuel oil spilled when two ships collided in the Gulf of Mexico.

By yesterday morning oil covered an area two miles long and a mile and a half wide.

This troubling incident reminds us that our fragile marine resources are still susceptible to disaster.

While efforts by the Coast Guard, states, and industry have reduced spills over the last two decades, accidents still occur and most are the result of human error.

Unfortunately, we currently lack the data and analysis we need to determine the causes of human errors and the ways to prevent them.

My amendment would begin filling in that gap so we can learn from the mistakes that have been made in the past and take action to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Madam Chair, with billions of gallons of oil passing through our nation's coastal waters every year, we must strengthen our oil spill safety programs.

And we must do everything we can to prevent future accidents like this week's collision in the Gulf of Mexico and the resulting spill.

I urge my colleagues to support the manager's amendment which takes appropriate action to reduce the risk of oil spilled because of human error.

HONORING THE SORGE FAMILY OF
SORGE'S RESTAURANT IN COR-
NING, NY**HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark in New York's 29th Congressional District and its proprietors, the Sorge Family of Sorge's Restaurant. Renato and his brother Remo Sorge came to the United States from Italy in 1936 and through hard work and determination realized the American Dream.

On June 5, 1951, Renato and Loretta Sorge opened Sorge's Restaurant at 68 W. Market St. in Corning, NY and it quickly became an area favorite. From its humble beginnings with a counter and 11 booths, the restaurant eventually grew, and expanded to the adjacent building and a seating capacity of 225 persons. Offering quality food and a welcoming atmosphere, it is easy to see how the restaurant became a Corning institution.

A true family business, Renato's sons, Joseph and Michael, followed in their parents' footsteps working in the restaurant part-time while growing up. They both eventually pursued restaurant management degrees at Cornell and SUNY Cobleskill, respectfully. Upon graduation, Joseph and Michael returned to Corning to carry on the Sorge Family tradition of providing the finest Italian/American food, and quality service at reasonable prices.

An unfortunate fire in December 2008 burned the original Sorge Restaurant; yet, this setback has not dampened the Sorge's spirits. Instead it serves as a testament to the Sorge Family commitment to the District as they have chosen to stay and rebuild this community institution. The site is now recognized as an historic landmark.

As friends and family gather in Corning today to celebrate a new beginning at 68 W. Market St., it is my honor to recognize the Sorge Family and Sorge's Restaurant on behalf of the United States Congress.

HONORING THE FISHER HOUSE &
THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF WEST
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican Club of West Pasco County for their support of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women: They sit up at night waiting for their phone call and they send them comforts from home to sustain them while they fight for our freedom a half a world away.

Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home".

Since it opened its doors in 2007, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200

people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, the Fisher House program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House.

The Republican Club of West Pasco County continually supports the Fisher House Foundation and our military men and women. This weekend, they will host the 2nd biennial event, "A Night For Heroes" in support of the Fisher House Foundation.

Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our nation; it is our duty to support them. The Republican Club of West Pasco County has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress, I thank them for their unyielding commitment to this most important cause.

HONORING DR. HO LUONG TRAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ho Luong Tran, President and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) on the occasion of her retirement from the Forum to pursue new advocacy opportunities.

Dr. Tran has spent 7 years working with sincere, focused dedication to build APIAHF into a leading policy. Dr. Tran has been leading innovative legislative, policy, and community initiatives with an outstanding ability to establish coalitions among the public, private and community sectors for more than 20 years.

Under Dr. Tran's leadership, APIAHF has partnered with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation on a groundbreaking initiative, Health Through Action, to provide local communities with funding, training, and technical assistance to address health issues and strengthen a national network of advocates to create a broader health movement. During her tenure as the President and CEO of APIAHF, Dr. Tran has helped create the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Alliance and the National Council of API Physicians.

Furthermore, she led the development of a national policy blueprint for Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander health and enhanced the organization's national presence and reach in Washington D.C.

She has worked in health care since earning her degree at the University of Saigon in 1972. Her family fled Vietnam as refugees in 1978, an experience which has shaped and deepened her commitment to the health of her community. I have worked with Dr. Tran and the APIAHF since I was elected to Congress. Her leadership and the excellent work of the Health Forum have enabled the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Black Caucus to help significantly positively impact health policy and the conversation around health disparities.

Her leadership has been critical in the fight for greater understanding of the challenges facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. I know the APIAHF will carry on her legacy of excellence and thank her for her unfailing commitment to improving the health of all Americans.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2009, which directs the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress examining the Coast Guard's ability to respond to the effects of possible changes to U.S. immigration policies toward Haiti.

While it is certainly responsible to examine a worst-case scenario, my amendment also asks that the study look at what has happened in past experiences as we discuss the anticipated repercussions of changes in our immigration policy.

Changes in policies affecting Haiti are nothing new. In fact, it was just over 10 years ago that we here in Congress passed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, which affected far more Haitian nationals than any of the currently proposed policies would affect.

I firmly believe that what happened then and our current relations with the Haitian government will result in little change, if not a decrease, in Haitian interdictions.

However, my assurances are not enough.

Those who are critical or skeptical of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians often claim that any change could result in a massive surge, or might completely overwhelm the Coast Guard.

This is in spite of the fact that when we last adjusted the status of thousands of Haitian immigrants, we actually saw a decrease in interdictions, and despite the assurances from the Haitian government that they will do their part to ensure their citizens are aware that no new immigrants would qualify.

However, as of now, we have little more than speculation to ascertain what the results would be.

My amendment will help provide us with an objective perspective on the Coast Guard's expectations and their ability to continue to effectively guard our maritime borders.

TPS, or some other comparable relief, for our Haitian neighbors is long overdue and this administration has been stalling for far too long.

This study will hopefully help us show that our government has rationally and realistically examined all possible scenarios and we are well equipped to contend with any possible effects.

Mr. Chair, my amendment furthers this bill's commitment to ensuring the safety of those

traveling on the high seas and protecting our national security, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed the final three rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I had to return to my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 809, On Ordering the Previous Question—H. Res. 853—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3619, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 810, On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 853—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3619, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 811, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 836—Expressing support for Teen Read Week.

HONORING SANDOR KIRSCHKE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sandor Kirsche. Mr. Kirsche was born in Czechoslovakia in 1926 and arrived in Chicago after surviving Nazi persecution in concentration camps at both Auschwitz and Bundenwald. Sandor overcame his personal struggles, including the deaths of his brother and father, and dedicated his life to making the lives of Jewish Americans easier. To that end, he opened the first full-service kosher supermarket in the Chicago area and gave back to the community with a life's worth of charity and philanthropy.

In 1971, Sandor opened a kosher butcher shop, which initially lost money. But through his hard work, long hours, and perseverance, he expanded the store to include kosher fish and packaged goods. The existence of a kosher supermarket was invaluable to the Jewish community, who now had a place where people could purchase kosher goods. Today, the store is known as Hungarian Kosher Foods and is still family owned.

Anyone who met Sandor knew he was much more than a businessman, and understandably, everybody knew him. At his stores, he never just sold meats and canned goods. He was always ready with a smile and a story, and a piece of candy for his younger patrons. He kept up on issues in the community, history, politics, and spoke seven different languages. He fought tirelessly to bring his sisters to the United States, and after twenty years of never giving up, he was successful in bringing them here from Soviet Russia in 1972.

I am honored to recognize and remember Sandor Kirsche today. He exemplified family

and community values even after overcoming great hardship. His uniquely American story is an example to not only the Chicago and Jewish communities, but to everyone who has ever faced long odds.

**HONORING JACK E. ATCHISON,
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American Hero and Purple Heart recipient, Jack E. Atchison of Spring Hill, Florida. Wounded during an enemy attack in Vietnam, Sgt. Atchison's service to our nation will forever be remembered by this Congress.

Born in Oskaloosa, Iowa on March 11, 1934, Jack attended Park College in Missouri where he studied Hospital Administration. Following his schooling, he courageously served 21 years in our nation's military.

In December of 1965, Sgt. Atchison bravely participated in an attack to repel enemy forces from a strategic location. During the battle, a bomb exploded in close proximity to Mr. Atchison, causing shrapnel wounds to his legs. In a genuine act of valor, despite his injuries, Mr. Atchison remained with his fellow wounded soldiers, and prepared them for transport via helicopter back to Flagon Embassy Hospital. Fortunately none of the 17 wounded American soldiers perished from this attack. The professional skill and personal devotion displayed by Sgt. Atchison reflect his immense commitment and sacrifice.

In addition to his Purple Heart, Sgt. Atchison was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal Bronze Clasp with 5 Loops, the National Defense Service Medal with OLC, the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960, the Honor Medal 2nd Class (Vietnam), the Parachutist Badge, and the Combat Medical Badge.

Following his service in the military Jack went on to a successful career as the President of the South Georgia Real Estate Association. Jack has been married to his wife, Virginia, for 56 years and they have 5 children, Jackie, Katie, Cindy, Jack Jr., and Donna.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jack E. Atchison. He is a beloved American hero. On behalf of a grateful nation, this Congress, his family and friends, I thank him for his service and sacrifice to our country.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act which has been included in the base bill of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2009.

It is expected that more than 12 million Americans will take a cruise vacation in 2009 alone. Passengers on cruises have an inadequate understanding of their potential vulnerability to crime, and those who may be victimized lack the information they need to understand their legal rights or to know who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of a crime.

Cruise ships, which operate under foreign flags of convenience, are not required under U.S. law to report crimes that occur outside of U.S. territorial waters.

Travelers on water deserve the same protections as travelers on land, and taking a few extra measures to protect passengers will lead to more enjoyable, safer trips and better results for victims of crimes.

To enhance the safety of cruise passengers, the owners of cruise vessels need to upgrade, modernize, and retrofit the safety and security infrastructure on their vessels. They need to install peep holes in passenger doors, raise standard ship railings, install security video cameras and limit access to passenger rooms.

In addition, passenger vessel crew members must be trained on the appropriate methods for prevention, detection, evidence preservation, and reporting of criminal activities. In the event that a crime should occur, it is of utmost importance that the crime scene or any potential evidence is not tampered with before the FBI can begin its investigation.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention my predecessor, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and the fight he began to improve safety on cruise ships and protect cruise ship passengers years ago. Congressman SHAYS took on this charge after one of our constituents, George Smith, was the victim of a crime in international waters while on his honeymoon in 2005. The investigation surrounding Mr. Smith's disappearance remains open to this day. Had the safety improvements and post-incident regulations mandated by the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act been in place in 2005, this horrible tragedy might have been prevented. I proudly stand alongside the Smith family and the Cruise Victims Association as they continue their fight for justice every day. Together, we work to honor Mr. Smith's death so no family will ever have to suffer again from this type of tragic crime.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND FEMALE VETERANS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans.

Every time I visit military installations, both at home and abroad, I am constantly im-

pressed by the tremendous job our service members are doing.

And I am always particularly struck by the essential and natural role our brave service-women play in so many parts of our Armed Services.

There are close to 350,000 American women currently serving in our Armed Forces.

And it's hard to believe they were only granted permanent status in the regular and Reserve Armed Forces in 1948—because women were certainly making their mark well before then.

Women have voluntarily served in every military conflict in our country's history since the Revolutionary War.

They have been on the frontlines as nurses, waterbearers, and even saboteurs.

For years, dedicated women had to disguise themselves as men in order to enlist in our military.

Today, that's not the case—our service-women play an increasingly important role in America's military forces, and our country is the better for it.

Women are flying helicopters and fighter aircrafts; they are saving lives as nurses and doctors; they are driving support vehicles and policing perimeters.

They do not seek special recognition, but I believe it is important to understand and recognize the additional burdens that are inherent in the many roles they play outside of work—as wives, mothers, and caretakers.

The resolution recognizes the sacrifices our servicewomen and their families make to keep our country safe.

As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Women in the Military and Veterans, I am privileged to honor the legacy of servicewomen in the past, the courage with which women serve today, and the enthusiasm of the young women who dream of serving this great nation in the future.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

TOM CONNELLY MARKS THIRTY YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF NAHRO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on October 9th of this year, one of the leaders in increasing the supply of affordable housing in the State of Massachusetts, Tom Connelly, marked his 30th anniversary as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MassNAHRO). I have benefitted enormously in my work on housing in the Committee on Financial Services from Mr. Connelly's good judgment, his broad and deep knowledge of all aspects of housing matters, and his passion for helping this become a fairer society.

NAHRO nationally has been a great partner for those of us trying to improve the housing

situation for many in this country. One of the strong aspects of NAHRO's work is their continued recognition that for many low-income people, the answer for their housing needs is not homeownership but decent rental housing, and a failure to understand this is one of the contributing factors to the housing crisis that led to our current recession. NAHRO, MassNAHRO and Tom Connelly in particular have been supportive of appropriate efforts to promote homeownership, but they have also understood the importance for a very large number of low-income people of affordable rental housing, so they are not pushed into inappropriate home mortgages.

Madam Speaker, in his thirty years as Executive Director, Tom Connelly has set a high standard for organizational leadership and for housing policy. And I should add that among the contributions he has made to the field of housing is his daughter, Meredith, who works on housing matters for the Committee on Financial Services and carries on her father's tradition of doing excellent work for the housing needs of low-income people.

Madam Speaker, I submit this statement for the RECORD because I hope that people will look at the work that Tom Connelly has done and that it will serve as a model for those interested in helping with housing issues.

CONGRATULATING IVAN "IKE" ACKERMAN

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ivan "Ike" Ackerman on his retirement as Mayor of the city of Waverly. At the end of the year, Ike Ackerman will be retiring after serving 12 years as Mayor.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Ackerman has been a proven leader in moving the city of Waverly forward and bringing the community together. With Mayor Ackerman's command, the city of Waverly has seen successes from economic development to upgrading the city's wellness opportunities.

Waverly is one of northeast Iowa's fastest growing communities with a highly diversified economic base. Mayor Ackerman has focused on bringing new life to old Waverly through downtown revitalization, economic development and new recreational facilities.

During Mayor Ackerman's tenure the city of Waverly experienced the worst flooding the city had seen in decades. In June of 2008, the Cedar River reached a record high and 25 percent of the community was impacted by the dangerous waters. The city suffered millions of dollars in damages. With Mayor Ackerman's leadership the city is rebuilding, putting in place future mitigation plans, and revitalizing the community one day at a time.

With Mayor Ackerman's retirement we are losing years of institutional knowledge and a champion for the needs of Waverly residents. I am proud to represent Mayor Ackerman and the city of Waverly in Congress. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.

HONORING RICHARD H. BENNETT,
PASCO, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Richard H. Bennett of Shady Hills, FL. A proud member of our Nation's military during Vietnam, Mr. Bennett honorably defended the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

Born on August 10, 1949 to Harry and Claire Bennett in Canandaigua, New York, Richard began his service to the Army in June of 1969. Shortly thereafter he was deployed to Vietnam where he fought courageously, putting his life on the line every day. During his tour he suffered shrapnel in his back on account of gunfire, wounds to his left arm and left leg due to an ambush firefight in the jungle, and was exposed to Agent Orange. Along with his Purple Heart Medal, Mr. Bennett is a recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Following Mr. Bennett's service in the Army, he worked with "Somebody Loves You Ministries" helping the less fortunate improve their lives.

Madam Speaker, it is important to recognize Americans like Richard H. Bennett for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. Our Nation, this Congress, and Mr. Bennett's family and friends, will always remember his bravery and dedication.

HONORING ELEANOR CAINES 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the life of a wonderful American and personal friend, Eleanor Caines, as she celebrates her 100th Birthday.

I know that I join family and friends in extending our best wishes as she reaches this special life milestone.

It has been my privilege to know Eleanor for more than three decades as we attended Maitland's Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

Nearly always several pews in front of the Mica family, Eleanor has been one of the most faithful parishioners of the congregation.

Her special smile, warm greeting and positive glow have brightened both the day and the path of those she meets!

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, whose family hailed from Massachusetts, Eleanor honorably served in the WACS during World War II. She and her late husband, Basil, who passed in 1982, resided in Central Florida.

Active in Church and community affairs, the Boston University graduate has faithfully been a strong supporter of veterans and university alumni affairs.

It is wonderful people like Eleanor Caines who every day of their lives have worked and

contributed to make this a great nation. I know that I join her niece and nephew, Charlotte and David Hunt, family and friends at Mayflower and fellow parishioners at the Church of the Good Shepherd in extending our best wishes to Eleanor Caines as she celebrates this special birthday. I know my colleagues also join in saying thank you to a special American, Eleanor Caines!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll-call No. 804. If present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2166 IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 22 AND 658

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Council of the city of New York's Resolution No. 2166, calling upon the U.S. House to pass H.R. 658—the Access to Postal Services Act. Thanks to our work in Congress, H.R. 22—the U.S. Postal Service Financial Relief Act, has passed the House and similar legislation has cleared the Senate. This great legislation assists the U.S. Postal Service with financial expenses and stops the unnecessary closure of neighborhood post offices, increasing community input as the Postal Service reorganizes its branches throughout the city of New York.

If we do not follow-up with the speedy passage of H.R. 658, the Postal Service will be forced to close over 700 locations throughout the United States, including 53 locations in New York city alone. In addition to the borough of Queens, Manhattan will be adversely affected with the closure of 25 locations, which includes my Harlem community.

In my own district, the Tejeda Post Office was almost a victim to these closures. The well-regarded institution was named after a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment who was killed during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq on April 11, 2003. He died at the tender age of 26. But thanks to the help of people like District Leader Maria Luna, City Councilman Robert Jackson and Assemblyman Denny Farrell and Adriano Espailat, as well as Councilmember-Elect Ydanis Rodriguez, Community Board 12, and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, a grassroots coalition came together and demanded that it remain open.

We ought to work to make sure that nothing of the sort happens in communities across this great nation. Both these bills will assist people in staying connected with the world, while not hoisting greater financial burdens on New Yorkers or other Americans who rely on these nearby post offices. Senior citizens and low-income Americans would be most vulnerable to

these shutdowns, and as Americans, we ought to look after the most vulnerable in our society. May the Congress work as quickly as it can to alleviate this problem and ensure that these post offices remain open.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF JONESBOROUGH VETERANS PARK

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to recognize and commend the town of Jonesborough and Washington County for its 10th year anniversary of the Jonesborough Veterans Park. In 1999, Washington County celebrated this park at the groundbreaking ceremony, and on Memorial Day of 2000, the Jonesborough Veterans' Park construction was completed.

Memorial Day of 2000 was extra special for veterans all throughout Washington County because of the Jonesborough Veterans Park.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced a Resolution, congratulating the Jonesborough Veterans Park for their 10th anniversary and for a decade of successful management and preservation of the park land. This will be a reminder that we in the First District are committed to honoring our veterans.

I want to thank the volunteers in Washington County who worked on this park and who remain dedicated to honoring our veterans.

CHAIRMAN SEUNG YOUN KIM'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Seung Youn Kim, Chairman of the Hanwha Group, in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

OCTOBER 1, 2009.

Hon. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA: I would like to offer my deepest condolences to you and the people of Samoa for the losses and sufferings caused by the natural disaster yesterday.

Everyone in my family was shocked by seeing the devastated sites of Pago Pago and Leone through the media, I am greatly concerned on the tragic news, not as a bystander but a personal friend of yours.

I can only imagine the grief that you must feel and the immensity of the tasks you face, but I also know that you are a man of undefeatable courage who will once again lead the way out from this disaster. It is slightly relieving to me that acts of courage and kindness surfaced and that the U.S. government and the international society take

the matter seriously moving quickly in aiding the region.

I heard that you have already flown out to Samoa, and I only wish I could come to the area and join you in person to help. I am personally committed to supporting you, pondering over how I could help you on the efforts for the recovery of Samoa and its people.

Once again, my heart and thoughts are with you and the people of Samoa wishing safety and hope for all those who have been affected.

Truly yours,

SEUNG YOUN KIM.

RECOGNIZING BETH SHOLOM AHAVAS ACHIM SYNAGOGUE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Beth Sholom Ahavas Achim Synagogue in Chicago. On October 25, 2009, the congregation will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special dinner and ceremony. I commend the entire congregation for its dedicated service to the Hollywood Park neighborhood and the surrounding communities. I would also like to recognize the contributions of Beth Sholom's spiritual leader, Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik. Rabbi Soloveichik is one of the most respected rabbis in the country and has been instrumental in the growth of Beth Sholom.

The Beth Sholom synagogue is a wonderful example of an active faith community whose members work to better themselves and those around them. The Orthodox Jewish faith is rich with tradition and an important part of both our diversity in Chicago and across the country. The congregation of Beth Sholom continues to enrich that tradition and pass it along to future generations.

The 50th anniversary celebration also honors an outstanding member of the congregation who passed away two years ago. Sandor Kirsche, a Holocaust survivor, opened Hungarian Kosher Foods, the first full-service kosher supermarket in the Chicago area, and was a member of Beth Sholom until his death. His service to the congregation and all of Chicago is greatly appreciated. Although he is missed, he will always be remembered.

I am honored to recognize Beth Sholom Ahavas Achim and Rabbi Soloveichik, and I am proud to have such active, thoughtful, and faithful men and women in my district.

CONGRATULATING TIM HURLEY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tim Hurley on his retirement as Mayor of the city of Waterloo. At the end of the year, Tim Hurley will be retiring after serving three terms as Mayor.

Over the past 6 years, Mayor Hurley has been a proven leader in moving the city of Waterloo forward and bringing the community together. With Mayor Hurley's command, the

city of Waterloo has seen successes from economic development to upgrading the city's recreational opportunities.

Mayor Hurley has been focused on four key initiatives: economic development, improved financial health of city government, improved delivery of government services and an improved city image. These are no small tasks, but Mayor Hurley has managed to turn them into a reality.

During Mayor Hurley's tenure, the city of Waterloo experienced the worst flooding the city had seen in decades. In June of 2008, the Cedar River reached a record high of 25.39 ft, 13.39 ft above flood stage and the city suffered millions of dollars in damages. With Mayor Hurley's leadership the city is rebuilding, putting in place future mitigation plans, and revitalizing the community one day at a time.

With Mayor Hurley's retirement we are losing a chief advocate for the needs of Waterloo residents. I am proud to represent Mayor Hurley and the city of Waterloo in Congress. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Subcommittee Chairman CUMMINGS for their hard work on this legislation. I believe H.R. 3619 will go far towards ensuring that the U.S. Coast Guard has the financial resources and management structure in place to do their job efficiently and effectively.

More importantly I want to thank both gentlemen for helping to address my concerns regarding the bridge permitting process for the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project led by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Ultimately the U.S. Coast Guard found that the owner of the Ambassador Bridge had not provided the relevant information necessary to make a decision on a permit at this time; an outcome I commend, as I believe that while the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project may ultimately be a worthy undertaking, the owner of the bridge must go through the proper channels of federal permitting, abiding by federal law and regulation, and including all relevant environmental, safety and structural information as requested and as all other public operators do.

However, at the same time the U.S. Coast Guard was conducting their process, Federal Highway Administration was conducting a separate permitting process for a new public span, the Detroit River International Crossing.

The differences in these two processes, as well as differences in the level of community engagement and state government engagement, is of concern to me and many in Southeast Michigan.

The report language makes clear that there is a requirement that the Commandant of the

USCG, with the Secretaries of Transportation and Homeland Security have to submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and other relevant committees regarding the existing coordination protocols for joint infrastructure responsibilities as well as recommended improvements to these protocols.

It is my hope that this will help to guide early coordination on the bridge permitting process and all other infrastructure projects, between the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as the relevant State agencies.

I have long believed that the end result of the legislative process, the NEPA process, or in this instance the bridge permitting process, is drastically improved by working with all relevant stakeholders. Such processes always benefit from thoughtful, careful, informed deliberation in compliance with all relative federal law and regulation.

Again, I thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairman CUMMINGS for their support and their work on this matter.

HONORING PAULA WELENC AND THE TAMPA FISHER HOUSE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula Welenc and the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women. Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home." At the Fisher House in Tampa, Florida, Paula Welenc is there to welcome them with open arms.

Paula is the manager of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. She has been with the facility since it opened in July of 2007. A clinical social worker by profession, she spent twenty years on active duty in the United States Air Force. In 2004, after retiring from the Air Force, she and her family moved to Spring Hill, Florida where Paula was hired as the Department of Defense's Domestic Violence Victims Advocate at MacDill Air Force Base.

Paula's military and civilian backgrounds give her a unique understanding of the issues facing our military families who are dealing with the illness or injury of their loved one.

In a recent newspaper article about the Fisher House in Tampa, Paula remarked, "We strive so hard to have this calm, relaxing, very comfortable setting for them while they're going through what might well be one of the most traumatic things that has ever happened in their life."

Since it opened its doors, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200 people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, The Fisher House Program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the

Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House.

Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our Nation; it is our duty to support them. Paula

has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress and the families that have benefited from this program, I thank her for her unyielding commitment to this most important cause.