

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BUSHNELL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist Church of Bushnell, Florida. At 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 29, the Church will officially celebrate their anniversary with a ringing of the church bells. Founded only thirty-four years after Sumter County, where Bushnell is located, the Church has stood the test of time.

The mission of the First Baptist Church is one of love, compassion, sharing and personal growth. The Church believes in "Sharing the good news of life through faith in Christ, developing Christians into mature followers of Christ, celebrating God's presence with joyful worship, building a family of friends through acceptance, support and encouragement and ministering with love to the needs of people."

Following the ringing of the church bells, the congregation will celebrate a morning worship service that will include music and a message from the Rev. Charles Roesel, retired senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg. Afterward, a 1950s diner-style lunch will be served. This will be a wonderful time for the entire community to come together in celebration of a historic church that has played an important role in the Bushnell community for more than a century.

Throughout the 120 year history of the Church, one of the focuses of the members has been on outreach to those less fortunate, including those in foreign countries. In the past twenty years, Church members have traveled to Jamaica, Kenya, Peru, Africa and Central America. These trips are in addition to the many missions within the United States to help those who have been the victims of natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Charity and compassion of a Church's membership like First Baptist are some of the best ways to measure its faith in the word of God.

Madam Speaker, for many areas of the United States the local church is the center of the town and the heart of the surrounding community. The First Baptist Church has played a vital role in the growth of Bushnell and has given its citizens a place to call home for the last 120 years. Their parishioners have been strengthened by the teachings of the many pastors who have served as well as by their faith in the Lord. I congratulate the Church on their 120th anniversary and wish them the best of luck for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RAYMON THOMAS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the Honorable Raymon Thomas, Chairman of the Holmes County Board of Commissioners, for his exceptional achievements.

At the Florida Association of Counties annual conference, Chairman Thomas was awarded the President's Advocacy Award, an honor given to only six commissioners throughout the State. Thomas is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly to enhance the life of Holmes County. At the same conference, he was one of twenty-six commissioners recognized for completing the advanced training provided by the Florida Association of Counties. The Chairman is now distinguished as the Advanced County Commissioner.

The Florida Small Counties Coalition also recognized Thomas for his community leadership when they presented him with the Outstanding Legislative Service Award for the 2007 legislative session.

In addition to his remarkable accolades, Thomas has been selected to serve on the board of directors for the Florida Association of Counties and has also accepted the role of Vice Chair of the FAC Rural Caucus.

His recognition by various organizations confirms his commitment to excellence and the continuous advancement of Holmes County. I am proud to honor Chairman Thomas for his achievements and thank him for his dedicated service.

As an extraordinary public official, Thomas's knowledge and commitment to service have helped to create a better life for the citizens of Northwest Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Honorable Raymon Thomas for his exemplary service as Chairman of the Holmes County Board of Commissioners and wish him continued success throughout his career.

NEWS ARTICLE HONORING LADY BIRD JOHNSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article entitled "A Legacy of Her Own," in the Washington Post on July 13, 2007. This op-ed tribute written by Joseph A. Califano, Jr., highlights the legacy of Lady Bird Johnson. Lady Bird Johnson was instrumental in influencing President Johnson to support

the Head Start program for low-income children in the country. She was also an influential advocate of beautification projects in the Nation's Capitol and throughout our country.

Lady Bird Johnson's legacy has helped more than 20 million needy children since 1966 and her efforts have increased our country's appreciation for public space. Lady Bird Johnson was one of our Nation's finest First Ladies and she will truly be missed.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Chairman, I wish to clarify my comments made during debate on my amendment to reduce the U.S. Department of Labor's Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses account and increase the U.S. Department of Education—School Improvement Programs' Mathematics and Science Partnerships program by \$15.666 million. My amendment added Section 522 to H.R. 3043's General Provisions. It is my intention that all programs within the Labor Department's Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses account be within the Secretary of Labor's discretion to accommodate this reduction.

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR PETER ALLGEIER

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Services caucus, I wish to call the attention of members to an important statement on July 26, 2007 by Ambassador Peter Allgeier, U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization, on the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Ambassador Allgeier spoke in the World Trade Organization's Trade Negotiations Committee. I wish especially to call attention to his remarks on Services, one of the three essential pillars of the Round.

Members will remember that talks in Potsdam among the EU, India, Brazil, and the

• 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.

United States "G-4" ended on June 21, 2007 without making progress. Immediately WTO Director General Lamy refocused negotiations back in Geneva, and the Chairs of the Committee on Agriculture and NAMA were instructed to produce draft texts embodying what progress had been made in their respective sectors. These texts were tabled last week. No progress was made, however, in services, which accounts for 65 percent of the global economy and 20 percent of global trade.

Ambassador Allgeier's statement is important for two reasons. First, he states that the United States believes that the agriculture and NAMA texts have "advanced our collective work" and that the United States is prepared to "continue serious and concerted efforts in September to build on these texts."

The second reason is that Ambassador Allgeier establishes that in addition to making more progress on the agriculture and NAMA pillars, "we also must define what is necessary to achieve a level of ambition for services that is at least on par with the level of ambition" for agriculture and NAMA. In other words, the United States is insisting that progress must be made in services for this Round to be considered a success.

Madam Speaker, no Doha Round result will be adequate or defensible if it does not include substantial new market access for U.S. services exports. In 398 Congressional districts more than 70 percent of workers are employed in services. Every state exports services. The United States has a surplus of \$73 billion on its services trade, and we can expect this to grow substantially—if the Doha Round can succeed in knocking down the substantial barriers to these exports in foreign markets.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of Ambassador Allgeier's remarks be included in the RECORD.

STATEMENT BY U.S. AMBASSADOR PETER ALLGEIER AT THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

(July 26, 2007)

Like others, I would like to thank Ambassadors Falconer and Stephenson for their extraordinarily hard work in producing draft texts. During the past two days we all have been providing our initial reactions—some of which, including our own, have been decidedly pointed and sometimes critical.

But none of those reactions should be taken as diminishing the significance of the contributions by both chairs, and their dedication to helping us achieve the needed modalities.

As a general matter, we would first underscore our commitment to work with both of the draft texts in September. While we have serious concern with some of the content in each of the draft texts, we nonetheless believe that they have advanced our collective work, and the United States is prepared to continue serious and concerted efforts in September to build on these texts.

We also would note our strong agreement with Chairman Falconer that there should be no assumption that the ultimate solution to the issues will lie in simply landing on the mid-point of the various ranges that have been put forward. Indeed, given the lack of clarity in some areas of the texts, they are as much snapshots of the current situation as they are suggestions pointing to particular solutions. However, as we achieve greater clarity in these areas, it should help us to narrow our differences.

In this context, both draft texts serve to underscore what the United States believes is a continuing fundamental—and still unmet—challenge of the Doha negotiations and key to achieving a successful outcome: namely, securing a strong market-opening outcome that will result in meaningful new economic opportunities and trade flows worldwide—in agriculture, industrial goods, and services.

AGRICULTURE

As we outlined earlier in the week, our fundamental concern with the Agriculture draft text—and with the state of play within the negotiations—is the uneven treatment across the three "pillars" in agriculture. While the domestic support and export competition pillars sections of the text are highly developed, many key topics in the market access pillar remain conceptual at best—with regard to both developed and developing country market access.

Combined with this uneven treatment is a continued imbalance in ambition across the pillars. Ambition in agricultural market access must match ambition in domestic support.

This assessment means that our first priority in September must be to fill in the gaps, on Special Products, Special Safeguard Mechanism, Sensitive Product treatment, tariff caps, and other critical elements.

On domestic support, the text calls for large reductions in U.S. Overall Trade Distorting Support. For those who have called for "effective cuts," it is important to note that U.S. OTDS levels would have exceeded the upper bound of the range in the Chair's paper in 5 of the past 8 years. And we would underscore that, while we have indicated that we are prepared to offer more on OTDS, our ability to make further cuts depends upon securing significant real increases in market access.

We remain committed to work with Members to ensure treatment for cotton that is consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. However, in our view, the draft text on cotton fails to take into account reductions to cotton-specific support relative to other commodities through the general formula. We have stated consistently that one cannot determine the application of the Hong Kong text until one knows the outcome from the basic disciplines. We continue to believe that the only path forward is through that sequence.

Finally, it is only logical that Members who are in compliance with their domestic support obligations should not be subject to dispute settlement actions over such measures.

NAMA

The key to a successful NAMA result is the coefficients in the Swiss formula. Unfortunately, the range proposed in the draft text for the approximately 30 developing countries applying the coefficient is too high, and the gap between the developed and the developing coefficients is too wide to achieve our twin goals of creating new market access opportunities for all while adhering to the principle of less-than-full-reciprocity in reduction commitments.

In terms of both absolute ambition in NAMA and ambition relative to what is under negotiation in agricultural domestic support, the proposed range for the 30 or so developing countries falls short.

At the end of the day, it is the new tariffs that everyone's businesses will be paying that will help determine whether we have a worthwhile outcome. We all need a result that provides meaningful new market access for our workers and manufacturers. Without such a result, we will not have concluded a truly pro-development Round.

Therefore, our aim must be to improve the balance of contributions as we ensure a high level of ambition overall.

The gap between the developed and developing country coefficients is too wide, particularly when one factors in the array of flexibilities available to developing countries. And the proposed range for the developed countries' coefficient of 8-9 is not realistic, given that many rapidly growing advanced developing countries are offering little beyond binding currently applied tariff rates.

For example, currently, the average applied tariff for the 30 developing countries applying the formula is just over twice the average rate applied by developed countries. Under any scenario in this text, this ratio would widen so that the average end rate for developing countries applying the formula would be more than three times the average end rate for developed countries. The pattern is similar for bound rates.

Furthermore, under any scenario in the draft text, no developed country would have a double-digit tariff anywhere, whereas even under the Chair's most aggressive formulation for developing countries, high tariffs would remain. For example, while the highest U.S. tariff would fall below 8%, several developing countries could maintain tariffs above 60%.

In terms of relative contributions, the developed countries would account for more than 75% of all the duties forgone as a result of the proposed tariff reduction ranges. The five largest developing countries would absorb less than 20%, and all the other formula countries would absorb barely 5%. Of course, the majority of developing countries don't have to apply the formula at all.

We agree with the Chair's assessment that sectoral arrangements are a key element in the framework to reach the mandate. Sectorals are a concrete way to improve the ambition and balance in this round. They are an effective tool in helping developing countries attract investment that will plug their economies into the global supply networks that are the international business model of today.

SERVICES

Services is one of the three critical pillars of the Doha market access negotiations, and an essential element in meeting the development promise of Doha. It simply is not possible to develop a competitive, growing economy without providing access to world-class services in key areas such as financial services, telecommunications, express delivery, and distribution.

As we focus on achieving agreement on modalities for Agriculture and NAMA, we also must define what is necessary to achieve a level of ambition for services that is at least on par with the level of ambition for Agriculture and NAMA. In our view, that means both binding what already is open as well as making new commitments in services market access.

We therefore believe it would be important for the Services Chairman to hold consultations in September, including possibly open-ended meetings, with a view to producing a services document at the time that modalities for Ag and NAMA are agreed. Such a document will be necessary to set a timetable for revised offers and final negotiations, as well as to articulate an appropriate level of ambition for services at this stage of the negotiations.

In the meantime, we all need to be working at home to prepare the groundwork with our domestic regulators and stakeholders for our revised offers.

CONCLUSION

The only way to achieve a Doha success—and the only way to meet the development

goals of Doha—is through a result that actually expands international trade. Our aim must remain to achieve a balance that reflects the broadest array of offensive interests across the market access pillars of agriculture, NAMA, and Services. The only way to do this is to attain the highest level of ambition if each.

For the U.S., there is no higher international trade priority than a successful conclusion of an ambitious Doha Round. For our part, we will come to the table prepared to carry forward our work, fully equipped with the will and flexibility necessary. We ask that our trading partners do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 691–747, I was absent due to a medical reason. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

691—“yes,” 692—“no,” 693—“no,” 694—“no,” 695—“no,” 696—“no,” 697—“yes,” 698—“no,” 699—“no,” 700—“no,” 701—“no,” 702—“no,” 703—“no,” 704—“no,” 705—“no,” 706—“no,” 707—“yes,” 708—“no,” 709—“no.”

710—“no,” 711—“yes,” 712—“no,” 713—“no,” 714—“yes,” 715—“no,” 716—“no,” 717—“yes,” 718—“yes,” 719—“yes,” 720—“yes,” 721—“no,” 722—“yes,” 723—“yes,” 724—“no,” 725—“yes,” 726—“no,” 727—“yes,” 728—“yes.”

729—“no,” 730—“yes,” 731—“yes,” 732—“yes,” 733—“no,” 734—“yes,” 735—“no,” 736—“no,” 737—“yes,” 738—“yes,” 739—“no,” 740—“no,” 741—“no,” 742—“no,” 743—“yes,” 744—“yes,” 745—“yes,” 746—“no,” 747—“yes.”

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 561, to recognize the 20th anniversary of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Unfortunately, due to a delayed flight, I was unable to make it to the House Floor to speak, but I would like to thank Mr. SHAYS and Chairwoman WATERS for their work to bring this resolution to the Floor in recognition of the significant impact McKinney-Vento has had over the past 20 years, and will continue to have on efforts to eliminate homelessness.

A little over 20 years ago, my predecessor, Congressman Bruce Vento visited the Dorothy Day Center in downtown St. Paul, and saw firsthand the severity of homelessness and the need for crisis intervention.

During his more than 20 years in Congress, Representative Vento was a leading advocate for the homeless. He worked with Representative Stewart McKinney to make homelessness

a national concern, and ultimately, in 1987, as a result of their work, Congress passed the landmark homelessness legislation that now bears both men's names.

Twenty years later, that legislation continues to provide vital assistance to those in need of safe and secure housing.

I often hear from people in Minnesota and around the country speak about what a difference the McKinney-Vento makes to help many overcome homelessness.

Yet we know, there remains more to do to reach the ultimate goal of Representatives Vento and McKinney—to eliminate homelessness.

In Minnesota alone, more than 20,000 people are homeless or lack secure shelter and every night, more than 500 children under the age of 18 are homeless and unaccompanied. Further, 5,000 individuals and families are on the waiting list for Section 8 housing in the 4th district, which Congressman Vento represented for more than 20 years.

We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing.

Reauthorizing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, increasing access to affordable housing, and expanding access to health care and other human services for all Americans are important steps in working towards the eradication of homelessness.

Today, we celebrate the vision of Stewart McKinney and Bruce Vento. I look forward to continuing to work together with my colleagues here today as well as with the housing advocacy community to prevent and eventually end homelessness.

LIMITING USE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR BASE IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2929, a bill that would ensure that no permanent U.S. military bases are established in Iraq. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I believe that H.R. 2929 sends an important message to the Iraqi people that we respect their sovereignty. We can take the wind out of the sails of extremists and insurgents who benefit enormously from the Iraqi public perception that the United States intends to maintain permanent bases and troop presence within the nation.

In December 2006 the bipartisan Iraq Study Group recommended that the United States clearly state that our Nation does not seek permanent bases in Iraq or to control Iraq's oil. We must speak out now to show the Iraqi people and the international community that we support full sovereignty for Iraq, entrusted to a functioning Iraqi government. Although this body previously has approved provisions banning permanent bases in Iraq, these provisions are due to expire on September 30, 2007. H.R. 2929 would make this ban permanent.

Congress has made clear that there should be no permanent U.S. bases in Iraq, despite the Administration's warnings for a prolonged

military presence in Iraq. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

BLACK COLLEGE STUDENTS FOCUS ON MATH AND SCIENCES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article entitled, “Challenges for Black Colleges’ Brightest in the Lab,” written by Samuel G. Freeman in the New York Times on July 18, 2007. This article is about a new program that brings gifted science and technology students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the South, like Morehouse College in Atlanta, to two major Research Universities.

Talented science students participate in an eight-week immersion program known as STEM which stands for science, technology, engineering, and math—career fields in which black students continue to be highly underrepresented. STEM was founded by Mr. Adam W. Herbert who became the first black president of Indiana University. There are 5 students participating in the program this summer at the Indiana-Purdue campus and at the University of Indiana at Bloomington where they join the research teams of renowned professors. The students get free room and board, a \$4,000 stipend, and various development training sessions and lectures outside the lab such as writing grant applications and preparation sessions for the Graduate Record Examination. In exchange, the two universities get an inside track on recruiting highly capable blacks for graduate study.

I applaud Mr. Herbert, Indiana University, and Purdue University for launching this initiative to bridge the gap for blacks in the science and technology field. I am positive that this program will be successful in developing young black students by situating them to succeed in a career path that only a handful of African Americans have reached before. This is an exceptional commitment to the American values of diversity, equality, and opportunity.

LIMITING USE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR BASE IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2929, offered by my colleague Ms. LEE of California, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor.

This important legislation declares that it is U.S. policy not to establish any military installation for providing for the permanent stationing of U.S. forces in Iraq. It is also not U.S. policy to exercise U.S. control over Iraqi oil resources. This legislation prohibits any funds appropriated by Congress from being used toward either of these ends.

Mr. Speaker, we have already expended 3,500 American lives and \$400 billion in taxpayer dollars in Iraq. We have occupied the

country for over 4 years. And our President continues to push a strategy devoid of clear direction and visible targets, while rejecting congressional calls to solidify an exit strategy.

President Bush's "New Way Forward" strategy, announced in January, calls for the deployment of an additional 21,500 U.S. combat forces, to be used to stabilize Baghdad and the Anbar Province. This comes at a time when, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, 59 percent of Americans believe we should be reducing the number of troops in Iraq.

Last November, the American people clearly stated that they did not want to see an endless conflict in Iraq; they went to the polls and elected a new, Democratic Congress to lead our nation out of Iraq. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional class that listens and adheres to the will of the American people, as we did when both houses of Congress approved Iraq Supplemental bills that instituted a timetable for U.S. withdrawal. We need a new direction, because we owe our brave, fighting men and women so much more. Washington made a mistake in going to war. It is time for politicians to admit that mistake and fix it before any more lives are lost.

Though much of Iraq's infrastructure now lies in ruins, the country still has an immense abundance of energy resources. In proven oil reserves, Iraq ranks behind only Saudi Arabia and Canada, though the exact extent of its reserves remains controversial. Most estimates are in the range of 115 billion barrels, with approximately 65 percent located in the southern fields, particularly the Rumalia fields.

Iraq's energy sector is vital to the nation's political and economic future, with oil exports funding virtually all imports of basic goods, including food and medicine. Oil exports currently provide about 95 percent of Iraq's foreign exchange earnings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman Lee for introducing this important legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on July 18th, I inadvertently voted "yea" for rollcall vote No. 662, it was my intention to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAYMOND M. FLAVIN ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in recognizing Mr. Raymond M. Flavin on his 95th birthday. This momentous occasion will be marked by a reception on September 2, 2007.

Mr. Flavin was born on August 25, 1912 in Litchfield, ND and moved to the Flint area in 1935. On January 18, 1937 he married his

wife Dorothy and the couple had five children. Ray moved to Flint Township in 1941 where his residency remains to this day.

Ray Flavin began his public service career in 1955 as a trustee on the Flint Township Board. He was also the police commissioner during this term. Ray was elected Supervisor of Flint Township by the Township Board in 1958 to fill the unexpired term of the previous supervisor who had passed away. In April 1959 he was elected to the position of Flint Township Supervisor. He served in this capacity during the years 1958 to 1964, from 1970 to 1972, and 1974 through 1980 for a total of 15 years.

Ray's position as Township Supervisor boasts many accomplishments, including: successfully joining the efforts to make Flint Township a Charter Township and assisting in the creation of the Kate McCarthy Senior Citizens Center.

Mr. Flavin was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives 83rd District in 1965. During his term he was a member of the State Ways and Means Committee and was Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Government.

Madam Speaker, I am a better person because of my friendship with Ray Flavin. I shall always be grateful to him. Madam Speaker, once again, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 95th birthday of Mr. Raymond M. Flavin.

HONORING KEVIN FOURNIER ON HIS GRADUATION FROM THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ACADEMY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Fournier, an outstanding native of Beverly in my congressional district, who will graduate from the United States Capitol Police Training Academy today, July 27, 2007.

Kevin Fournier grew up in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood and graduated in 2002 from Brother Rice High School. Kevin then attended the University of Iowa where he studied political science, earning a degree in 2005. From an early age, Kevin displayed the qualities of a scholar and a leader, and has always been determined to positively influence his community and society at large.

Kevin's dedication, in addition to his outstanding academic and physical performance credentials, enabled him to enter the ranks of one of the finest law enforcement organizations in our Nation, the United States Capitol Police. Like all successful Capitol Police recruits, Kevin completed extensive courses at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and at the Capitol Police Training Academy. Kevin's exceptional interpersonal skills, professionalism, and technical proficiency in firearms and police procedures will enable him to protect and serve Members of Congress, staff, guests, and the general public with distinction.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Officer Kevin Fournier and all of our new Capitol Police officers as they begin careers on Capitol Hill. I have confidence that these fine new officers, like Kevin, will serve

as an example to other police officers around the country, following in the great tradition of the Capitol Police. As Members of Congress, we are grateful for the commitment of these new officers, and are forever indebted to all the men and women who have served or currently serve in the United States Capitol Police.

HONORING ENGINE COMPANY NO. 110 OF THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of Engine Company No. 110 of the Chicago Fire Department on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Over the last century Engine Company No. 110 has selflessly served the community to keep it safe.

The local firehouse is an important, traditional, and valuable resource in the neighborhood. Engine Company 110 strives for perfection to better help those in the community.

I have visited Engine Company No. 110 many times. This company has always epitomized the exemplary values of honor and protection that the Chicago Fire Department and the Maltese Cross have become known to symbolize. All too often we take for granted the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants.

Fire Marshall and Chief of Brigade, D.J. Swenie originally established Engine Company No. 110 on September 7, 1907. Today, Captain Dave Dietz continues this tradition of bravery and service for our community.

The anniversary celebration honoring Engine Company No. 110 will take place on September 8th at the current firehouse location at 2322 W. Foster Avenue. This will be a wonderful event that will memorialize this important anniversary.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the north side of Chicago and the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish to recognize the past and current firefighters of Engine Company No. 110 for their dedication and commitment to service. Moreover, I wish all the best for the future firefighters of Engine Company No. 110 and their families.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE PROSTATE CANCER MEDICAID COVERAGE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to allow treatment using Medicaid funds for men who are diagnosed with prostate cancer. This bill mirrors the measure that Congress enacted in 1999 to help low-income women who would otherwise not qualify for Medicaid, despite being diagnosed with

breast cancer or cervical cancer. Congress found that women responded in large numbers to efforts by government and others to encourage early diagnosis using mammography after the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act was enacted in 1990. However, in 1999 Congress recognized that because the screening did not provide coverage of treatment for women above the poverty level, the screening legislation had the tragic but unintended consequence of informing these women of a serious disease that demanded immediate treatment but leaving them without the means to seek that treatment. Later, Congress amended Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for the women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a Federally funded screening program.

In today's bill, I have endeavored to provide the same relief for men. This bill allows men, earning up to 250 percent of the poverty level, who are diagnosed with prostate cancer through a Federal screening program for prostate cancer, to qualify for treatment using Medicaid funds. The program would target men who are low-income, uninsured or underinsured men who, nevertheless, do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have private insurance.

Prostate cancer outranks breast cancer as the second most common occurring cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. However, diagnosing this cancer is often less expensive, and unlike breast cancer, often does not require immediate treatment. Prostate cancer treatment does not require invasive surgery in many instances. Many prostate cases can be diagnosed with a simple Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) Test unlike the high technology mammography machines used to detect breast cancer. Many men are advised to wait and watch for the development of the disease before seeking treatment.

However the rate of cancer deaths coupled with available treatment is strong evidence that many lives could be saved at considerably less expense if early detection and treatment were more available. Although race is a factor, every man over the age of 50 is at risk of developing prostate cancer and should be screened. Veterans that have been exposed to Agent Orange also have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer. Many doctors recommend yearly screening for men over age 50, and some advise men who are at a higher risk for prostate cancer to begin screening at age 40 or 45. Many black men are at the highest risk of prostate cancer—it tends to start at younger ages and grows faster than in men of other races. Currently, Medicare provides coverage for an annual PSA test for all men age 50 and older but men still do not fall within existing requirements to receive Medicaid.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in establishing this program guaranteeing treatment for men diagnosed with prostate cancer. It will meet an immediate and pressing need in communities across the country, and across racial and class lines.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

PRaising PEACE MEDIATOR
BETTY BIGOMBE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of Ms. Betty Bigombe who has worked tirelessly on the Northern Uganda's peace process for over two decades. Ms. Betty Bigombe's story was featured in the Washington Post on July 11, 2007 in an article entitled, "The Woman Behind Uganda's Peace Hopes."

Ms. Bigombe was the primary negotiator between Joseph Kony, the commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Ms. Bigombe first started working on the northern Ugandan peace process in 1988 when Museveni appointed her as the minister of state for the north. Ms. Bigombe was called to action again on Feb. 21, 2004 after reading news dispatches of a massacre at a displacement camp in Barloonyo.

Ms. Bigombe contributed to the peace talks by meeting with Joseph Kony and his army and urged them to sign a peace agreement. While the peace talks in Northern Uganda are now being led by southern Sudanese mediators, Kampala officials and the LRA continue to regularly consult with Ms. Bigombe.

Ms. Bigombe has my deepest respect and admiration. She has put her life on the line and became the voice of nearly 2 million displaced Ugandans and 25,000 children who were kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers and sex slaves. The road towards peace in Northern Uganda has taken personal sacrifice on the behalf of Ms. Bigombe. For instance, she has personally financed her operations while in Uganda and lived off grants. She found herself bankrupt in 2005 as a result. In addition, working on the peace process demanded time away from her family and loved ones and she often found herself missing birthdays and other celebrations. These are life moments that she simply cannot get back.

Ms. Bigombe and others like her should be celebrated for their bravery and contributions in bringing peace throughout the world.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, this is an important bill that funds many crucial priorities for this Nation. I offer my congratulations to the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. MOLLOHAN, for crafting a bill that balances important in-

vestments in law enforcement and economic development with the need to maintain our Nation's scientific and technological leadership.

Nowhere has Chairman MOLLOHAN shown more foresight and wisdom than in his decision to increase our national investment in NASA, which has been at the forefront of humanity's exploration of the cosmos for the past 39 years.

Earlier this year, I told NASA administrator Michael Griffin that I viewed the President's budget request for NASA as a floor and not a ceiling. That request, for \$17.3 billion, was \$1.4 billion below the congressionally authorized level and, in my view, shortchanged too much science on the one hand, while allowing no margin for error whatsoever in terms of human spaceflight.

This budget crunch at the space agency has been brewing for several years. To start, the costs resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the Space Shuttle Return-to Flight after the *Columbia* tragedy were never recouped by NASA. Second, several big-ticket and vital missions have exceeded cost estimates and, third, the addition of the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission adds an additional funding burden to NASA.

At the same time, the FY 2007 Joint Resolution reduced NASA's human spaceflight program budget by \$670 million, the practical effect of which will be at least a 6-month delay in the launch of the new Orion and Ares I, a delay that will increase the 4 year "gap" in American human spaceflight capability and increase our reliance on the Russians to launch and recover crew for the International Space Station.

And, Mr. Chairman, even as we speak, the People's Republic of China is working hard to become a dominant space power—both in the civilian sector and in the military use of space.

This budget crunch has brought us to a point of reckoning. Congress and this Nation are going to need to make some decisions about the value of space to our national life. I know that there is broad and deep support for NASA and its mission and I also believe that we should begin to ramp up the NASA budget to make our push back to the Moon a reality, while continuing to answer the great fundamental questions about our own planet and our place in the cosmos.

It is the area of space science that most concerns me and where I think that Chairman MOLLOHAN has been especially responsive to the needs of America's scientific community. I have a special concern for space science as my colleague from California, Mr. DREIER, and I represent the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which is the crown jewel of NASA's efforts to explore the solar system and the universe beyond.

One of the most exciting endeavors that NASA is engaged in is the search for the presence of planets around neighboring stars. NASA's search for planets and life beyond our solar system is having increasing and dramatic success with over 105 planets now discovered.

For years, JPL has been working on a planet hunter spacecraft and the Space Interferometry Mission program has successfully passed all its technological milestones and is thus ready for development. SIM is expected to examine 2000–3000 stars for planetary systems to fulfill a critical step in the search for Earth-like planets.

This mission has been supported by Congress in the last two years and by the Academy Decadal Astrophysics reports in 1990 and 2000. To this point NASA has spent approximately \$300 million on the program. Unfortunately, the President's 2008 budget request for NASA drastically scaled back funding for the program—essentially putting it on ice. Thankfully, Chairman MOLLOHAN has restored funding for SIM and directed NASA to proceed with development.

JPL has also been the epicenter of our efforts to explore Mars. The rovers Spirit and Opportunity have been exploring the Red Planet for the past 3½ years and next month the Mars Phoenix Lander will begin its journey to Mars. I am happy to report that the bill fully funds the Mars program, which allows for a new mission to be launched about every 2 years.

Finally, NASA does not currently have an outer planets mission in development and I am happy that the bill provides \$10 million to begin work on such a mission.

Mr. Chairman, I know that many of my colleagues have expressed support today for NASA and its mission and have elaborated at length on the technological and other spinoffs from the space program. I would like to urge all of you to remember another crucial spinoff from the space program—international goodwill.

The United States is not universally loved around the world at the moment. However, one area in which our prestige remains undiminished is in space exploration. The ESA, the Canadians, the Japanese, the Indians and many others want to partner with us. Our space program also continues to generate enormous interest and enthusiasm worldwide. In the first 2 months after Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars in January 2004, JPL's rover website registered almost 9 billion hits from around the world. At a time when America needs ways to communicate with a growing and increasingly younger global audience, our space program is an important public diplomacy asset.

I thank the Chairman and urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TRIBUTE TO BLOUNT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hospital that embodies the spirit, standard, and strength of the community it serves.

Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville, Tennessee first opened its doors 60 years ago with 50 beds and 12 doctors. Now, with hundreds of beds and doctors and numerous outreach facilities, the hospital sets a new standard for community healthcare.

The citizens of Maryville are blessed to have at their disposal such quality care close to home. People of many other communities its size must often travel to bigger towns for full care, but this is not so in Blount County, Tennessee.

I am extremely honored to represent the fine men and women who work hard every

day to make Blount Memorial hospital a source of community pride.

The hospital's transformation into a premiere medical facility could not have occurred without the outstanding leadership of its longtime administrator. Joe Dawson has witnessed many milestones in his 22 years at Blount Memorial, and I am sure he will spearhead many more. I thank him for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from the Daily Times newspaper, which is reprinted below.

[From the Daily Times, July 25, 2007]

BMH TURNS 60

(By Jessica Stith)

With 50 beds and 12 physicians, Blount Memorial Hospital opened its doors to the community 60 years ago. Now, the hospital houses over 304 licensed beds, not including the 76 beds in their transitional care center or the 92 beds in MorningView Village, a senior community. The hospital currently employs more than 280 physicians on active and courtesy staffs.

On Tuesday, 24 American flags were unveiled down East Lamar Alexander Parkway in front of the hospital in celebration of the hospital's 60th anniversary and in honor of those who have died in the line of duty, those missing in action and those who served and continue to serve our Nation.

Past and present employees, board members, physicians, volunteers, hospital partners from the past and friends of the Blount Memorial Hospital family joined to celebrate and recall the history of the hospital.

Two proclamations were presented to the hospital—one from Blount County and the cities of Maryville and Alcoa and a second from the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Joe Dawson, who became the hospital's sixth administrator in 1985, opened the ceremony by welcoming guests in the birthday celebration of the hospital. "This is the actual first day (July 24) Blount Memorial took their first patient," Dawson said.

Dawson said the 24 honor flags would be displayed on patriotic holidays and the hospital's anniversary each year.

Robert Redwine, president of the hospital's board of directors, said this year's anniversary theme was, "Honoring the past. Ensuring the future." Redwine pointed out the rich history and milestones of the hospital. He said the need for the hospital arose in the early 1940s when ALCOA Inc.'s North Plant was built.

The hospital's "founding fathers," Judge George Roberts, Joe Gamble and A.D. Huddleston, were appointed to investigate the feasibility of building a publicly owned hospital in the county.

In 1945, the Federal Works Agency agreed to finance about 50 percent (\$200,000) of the \$400,000 needed to build it. The community raised \$200,000 that included a \$100,000 donation from ALCOA. The aluminum company's contribution included a day's pay given by every worker, Redwine said.

A 14-acre site was purchased, and Maryville College donated 0.675 acres of land in front of Walland Highway, where construction began.

On Blount Memorial's first day of operation, 40 patients were brought to the hospital by ambulance and six were admitted. The staff performed two operations, dealt with two emergencies and delivered a baby boy, Richard Brown.

Since that day, the hospital has grown significantly in its size and services offered. In the past 10 years, The Good Samaritan Clin-

ic, Blount Memorial Health Center at Tellico West in Vonore, Home Equipment Services office, MorningView Village, Transitional Care Center, Breast Health Center, Atrium Cafe and an outpatient diagnostic center at Springbrook have been opened—not to mention many additions and renovations.

Redwine thanked many partners and friends of the hospital for their continued support. "And of course we want to thank the community for your continued support," Redwine said.

"We are here to serve you." "Please remember this is your hospital. We want you to be proud of it, and we want you to use it."

Proclamations read:

Blount County Mayor Jerry Cunningham, Alcoa Mayor Don Mull and Maryville Vice Mayor Tom Taylor presented a joint proclamation to the hospital on behalf of the county and cities. The proclamation "declares July 24, 2007, as Blount Memorial Hospital's 60th Anniversary Day," and encourages the community to join the celebration.

State Rep. Doug Overbey and Rep. Joe McCord presented a proclamation to the hospital stating that the "General Assembly is privileged to recognize Blount Memorial Hospital for its countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee."

Senator and retired physician Raymond Finney spoke at the celebration about how he was glad to be "back home" as he was on staff at Blount Memorial Hospital for 33 years. He talked about the hospital's accomplishments and credited many of those to great leadership who have been there for years.

"One of the things that makes this hospital so good is capable people that stay put," Finney said. "I really appreciate what's been accomplished here. I know what is going on across the state in health care, and we have an exemplary hospital here."

Dawson said he expects the hospital to continue growing and believes the hospital will reach many more goals by its 70th anniversary. "We're very much a reflection of Blount County and the changes of Blount County," Dawson said.

In the next 5 to 10 years, Dawson said he expects the hospital will have new technology and said the hospital will be "reaching out into the community" more by building more primary care and outpatient facilities.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill.

The bill includes funding for many important programs, and while I think some do deserve more funding than the bill provides, I recognize that the appropriators had a challenging task in shaping the bill because of budget constraints. Overall, I think the bill is a good one and I congratulate Chairmen OBEY and MOLLOHAN for making these difficult decisions in a very constructive manner.

As Chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, I am pleased that the bill includes \$17.6 billion for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) funding. NASA's work in human space exploration, space and earth science, and aeronautics plays an important role in advancing our knowledge, expanding our economy and inspiring Americans both young and old. I believe NASA performs important research which allows us to better understand our climate, our planet and the universe beyond.

I am pleased that the Committee funds NASA's Science Mission Directorate at \$5.7 billion, an increase of \$180 million over the President's request. This increase will help reverse the recent decline in funding for science at NASA. NASA research helps us better understand the universe at large, but it also greatly contributes to our knowledge of our own planet.

I am especially encouraged that the Committee recognized the recommendations of the National Research Council's recent Decadal Survey on Earth Science by targeting \$60 million towards the highest priority missions recommended in that survey, as well as ensuring that work on critical climate instruments that were de-manifested from the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) can continue. The Committee specifically noted the importance of the Total Solar Irradiance Sensor (TSIS), which is being built by the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in my district, and instructs NASA to continue to support this program. TSIS will ensure that we continue to receive important information on the sun and how it interacts with our climate—a data stream that has been continuous since 1979 and has contributed to our understanding of climate change.

I am also pleased that the Committee increases NASA's aeronautics budget by \$146 million over the President's request. Progress in aeronautics is crucial to the health of the Nation's air transportation industry, which in turn is critical both to the continued strength of our domestic economy and to our international competitiveness. The additional funding will help NASA contribute meaningfully to the development of the Nation's Next Generation Air Transportation System, which will enhance the capability of our air transportation system to handle the enormous increases in air travel projected over the next 20 years. Moreover, this bill recognizes that aeronautics R&D at NASA can help develop more environmentally compatible commercial aircraft, with significantly lower noise, emissions, and energy consumption compared to aircraft in commercial service today, and the bill provides funding to support that R&D.

This bill also provides significant funding for the President's exploration initiative at NASA by providing the President's full request of \$3.9 billion. I support the President's Vision for Space Exploration and believe human space exploration is a worthwhile undertaking. The funding in this bill will keep the Crew Exploration Vehicle on track in FY 2008. However, I am concerned that the administration's current plan for the shuttle replacement system, the crew exploration vehicle (CEV), is not scheduled to be finished until 2015. This will leave a potential 4 to 5 year gap when the United States will be dependent on other

countries to travel to and from the International Space Station. It is within the administration's power to send over budget requests in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to address this gap within the context of a balanced overall NASA program, and I hope that the administration will do so.

I am pleased that the Committee increases NASA's education programs to \$217 million, up \$64 million over the President's request. This increase will provide additional funds for the Space Grant program, which helps undergraduate students participate in cutting-edge research, and in the process trains and inspires the next generation of scientists. The Committee also provides \$2 million for the NASA Aeronautics Scholarships program, which encourages more students to pursue graduate degrees in aeronautics. I helped create this program in the 2005 NASA Reauthorization Act and am pleased that the Committee has recognized its importance.

The Committee provides \$6.7 billion for space operations, which is a \$100 million cut relative to the President's request. I understand that the Committee had difficult decisions to make, but I am concerned about the impact that these cuts will have on the International Space Station's reserves posture, as well as on the upcoming Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) procurement. I hope that it will be possible to address these problems when the House and Senate move to conference on this legislation.

Funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which has one of its two laboratories based in my district in Colorado, is also an improvement on past years. I am pleased that the Committee met the President's request of \$500 million for research, which will help fund components of the Innovation Agenda, such as nanotechnology and materials science.

I also support the bill's inclusion of \$109 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and \$93 million for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). MEP serves small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies nationally to enhance their ability to compete globally. Every federal dollar appropriated for MEP leverages \$2 in state and private-sector funding, which means that a small federal investment of \$109 million translates into more millions of dollars in benefits for the economy in terms of jobs created and retained, investment, and sales. ATP helps businesses develop high-risk, high-reward research into commercial applications that often have wider social benefits.

And, because of its importance for my own Congressional District, I am glad to note that the NIST budget includes \$129 million for construction and specifically \$28 million for the extension of building 1 at the Boulder facilities. NIST's Boulder laboratories were built in the 1950s and are in critical need of modernization to ensure the continuation of world-class research.

After several years of disappointing funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I am pleased that this bill will set NOAA back on the right track. The Committee funds NOAA at \$3.950 billion, an increase over both the President's budget and the fiscal year 2007 spend plan. There is certainly still room for improvement, but I hope that this is the first step forward for increasing NOAA funding.

The office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), which funds the important work being conducted in the NOAA labs in my district, is funded at \$410 million in the bill—an increase of \$52 million over the President's request and \$46 million over the FY 2007 spend plan. This funding will help NOAA continue to perform vital research in climate change and other areas.

In particular, I am encouraged that the Space Environment Center is being funded at the President's request of \$6.2 million. While this funding is still below the \$7.2 million that the SEC received in FY 2002, it is an increase over what Congress appropriated in FY 2006 and indicates that the Committee realizes the important work that the SEC does on space weather monitoring and prediction.

The bill also includes important funding for law enforcement, at both the federal and state level.

It rejects the President's proposal to slash the COPS program by 94 percent and instead provides \$725 million, \$183 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as: \$100 million for the COPS hiring program; \$175 million for expanding DNA analysis and forensic crime lab capacity; and \$85 million for beefing up enforcement in "meth hot spots," places where meth is a serious problem.

Similarly, the bill includes \$600 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants to assist local law enforcement agencies and which the President's budget proposed to terminate. It also includes continued funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance program (SCAAP), which assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status—another vital program the President's budget proposed for elimination.

The bill also rejects proposed cuts in the Violence Against Women programs and includes vital support for competitive youth mentoring grants, delinquency prevention grants, and Justice Accountability Block Grants.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill that provides funding for many important purposes. It is good for Colorado and good for the country, and it deserves approval.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 980 PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the first responders of our Nation deserve our great respect and admiration for their commitment to keep the public safe from harm. They play a vital role in securing our communities against our time's many threats to peace. I fully support our public-safety community in its increasingly complex and difficult task.

The measure before the House, H.R. 980, would allow the Federal Government to assert itself on an issue that has typically been left to State legislatures. H.R. 980 would establish a national system of collective bargaining for most of the Nation's public safety officers, including but not limited to, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other emergency service

personnel (such as EMTs and other first responders) employed by State and local Governments.

This legislation does not pass good policy muster for a variety of reasons. Foremost among those reasons is its utter disregard for the 10th Amendment rights of States. My home State of North Carolina has exercised its State rights and chosen to prohibit collective bargaining rights. It has been a Right-to-Work State since 1947. Under the provisions of this bill, North Carolina could no longer exercise its constitutional rights, but would be forced to comply with unprecedented Federal mandates.

The legislation also does not include protection for secret ballot elections. Public-safety workers would be at the whims of strong-arming union-boss tactics. But despite the threat to the interests of States and their public safety workers and the fact that it supersedes State and local authority, this bill was pushed through the House under a suspension rule.

Fortunately, there is a decent chance this law will be ruled unconstitutional because of the Federal Government's overstepping its bounds and imposing a Federal mandate on States. This bill would preempt State authority to regulate the collective bargaining rights of its State and local public safety employees. While the bill asserts that States would not be preempted, this assertion only applies to States with comparable or greater rights than those required under this legislation. In other words, if a State doesn't match or exceed what the Federal Government wants, it is preempted.

H.R. 980 infringes on State rights and it expands the Federal Government's scope and role by creating an onerous national standard for public safety employee labor laws. But there is no real case for enacting this bill—currently 48 States have labor laws governing these workers and 29 of those States would already meet the proposed standard. The dark side of these 29 States that meet the standard is the 21 States that would have to create new labor laws or face Federal Government intervention of imposed regulations.

Moving away from how this affects States, H.R. 980 does not provide protections for individual public-safety employees who do not want to unionize—especially in States that do not currently allow such unionization. States often have good reason to prohibit such unionization of public-sector employees. Collective bargaining and the process that surrounds it can cause strife in the workplace that might otherwise undermine Americans' public safety. Although current law already prohibits strikes in the public sector, such prohibition has at times been violated during the collective bargaining process.

North Carolina is one of the States that has laws barring monopoly collective bargaining for public safety employees. It would be significantly affected by this bill's mandates. Since North Carolina's laws do not meet these new burdensome standards, the State is faced with two choices: enact or amend its laws that conform to the Federal standard; or have Federal labor law, administered by the Federal Government, govern the rights of its State and local firefighters and public safety officers.

With such an imposition, Democrats are empowering the Federal Government to supersede State's rights and set a minimum standard that must be observed, in an area where

48 States already have some form of allowance present. We do not need to expand the Federal role in this issue and it is unclear whether or not this would be constitutional under the Tenth Amendment.

For decades, States have exercised their constitutional right to make public-sector employment laws that each State found reasonable. With the passage of H.R. 980, the States would be forced to comply with Federal standards that might not reflect the values of the State and its citizens. This is just one more example of how the majority insists on inserting the Federal Government into more and more aspects of our lives. I believe a no vote on this bill is a protest against continued intrusion into issues best left to States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, on July 23, 2007, I missed rollcall votes 687–690. Regrettably, my flight from California to Washington, DC was cancelled and I had to take a flight that got me here after votes. Had I been here, I would have voted “yes” on votes 687, 688, and 689, and “no” on vote 690.

Rollcall vote 687: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 404, Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act;

Rollcall vote 688: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 553, Mourning the passing of Lady Bird Johnson;

Rollcall vote 689: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 519, Honoring the life and accomplishments of Tom Lea on the 100th anniversary of his birth;

Rollcall vote 690: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 558, Providing for consideration of H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies, FY 2008.

THREATS TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY: DEPORTATION POLICIES THAT FORCE FAMILIES APART

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, conversations on this very important topic are necessary to recognize the consequences of criminally convicted U.S. residents deported to Latin America and the Caribbean. I commend Chairman ENGEL for taking an interest and exploring the challenges that our deportation policies have imposed on the region. I look forward to working with you and the Committee, as you examine this issue.

Recently, the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) visited the U.S. Congress. They spoke with several members and met with committees regarding the issues affecting the region. One major concern for them is the impact of thousands of criminally convicted deportees from the United States to the nations

of the Caribbean. At times these individuals are repatriated without notice to the receiving country, regardless of the impact their arrival will have upon the societies to which they are being sent. The adverse impact of this practice is not only felt in the Caribbean, but in our communities as well, due to the financial burden it places on the families left behind without means of support.

The CARICOM members are not asking for a change in the policy, but adjustment to how it is executed. The CARICOM members understand that residence permits are a privilege granted to non-citizens contingent on their good behavior. Clearly, the commission of a crime does not constitute good behavior. However, mothers and fathers are being separated from their families without making the appropriate provisions for the welfare of children who remain in our country. Those repatriated sometimes have no support units in their country of citizenship and are forced into a life of poverty, as well as stigmatized for being deported. In addition, the families they leave behind are left with huge legal bills or in situations where they have to fend off poverty. It is my contention that poverty is a threat to the national security of the United States.

The Human Rights Watch in their July 2007 Report entitled “Forced Apart Families Separated and Immigrants Harmed by United States Deportation Policy,” stated that since 1996 approximately 1.6 million families have been torn apart by the U.S. deportation policies. The top ten countries of origin for non-citizens removed on criminal grounds represent Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico being the most affected of these nations; with over 500,000 Mexican nationals being repatriated between FY 1997 and FY 2005. Haiti, the poorest nation in our hemisphere, is among the top ten with over 3,000 individuals being returned to that nation. Many parents explained that their children, the vast majority of whom had been left in the deporting country, faced extreme hardships, both emotionally and financially. These are American children that are forced into situations where they have to abandon school to support their families. These are American children sometimes forced to live in single-parent households or households without a parent. Ushered into a life of poverty. Poverty not only pricks our conscience, but it shortchanges our future as well. Society ultimately pays for poverty through a less productive workforce; more crime, higher use of welfare, greater drug addiction and other social ills.

We need to support initiatives to integrate repatriated individuals into their new society. Often they have spent their entire life in the United States and lack a support system in the receiving country. Recommendations that need to be explored include funding to expand or establish resettlement programs. These programs should be geared to setting up transition centers where individuals are afforded basic resources such as food, clothing and shelter. Job training programs and social service type institutions need to be reinforced in the region, since upon deportation, many of them drift into homelessness, and with no job prospects, they end up doing crime as a means of survival.

There needs to be the creation of a system to track and monitor high-risk criminal deportees. In some situations criminals are repatriated and no formal processing takes place in

the receiving country. In essence they are let loose into the community and there are no systems in place to track their movement in the receiving country. It is believed that there is a correlation between the increase in gang related activity in the region and deportees. These individuals often make their way back into the U.S. or form part of trans-national organized crime units.

I am glad to see that this hearing has been convened to explore ways this Congress can help our neighbors in the Region address this issue. Failing to properly reintegrating repatriated individuals is a challenge that negatively impacts our neighbors and threatens our national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 734, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 735, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 736, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 737, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 738, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 739, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 740, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 741, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 742, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 743, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 744, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 745, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 746, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 747, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a daring feat of technology, design and architecture. This week, the mighty Mackinac Bridge turns 50 and, this weekend, the people of the State of Michigan will celebrate the bridge's remarkable legacy.

Before the construction of the bridge, the only way to cross the Straits of Mackinac was by ferry. The area around the Straits of Mackinac had blossomed into a popular summer resort destination. However, year-round boat service across the straits was not practical because, during the cold winters, the waters freeze, forming ice and preventing navigation of the straits. For this reason, as early as the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, the residents of northern Michigan were inspired to dream of a bridge that would span the Straits of Mackinac and unite Michigan's two peninsulas.

Nonetheless, it would be several decades before the plans for the bridge began to take shape. The process began formally in 1934, when the Michigan Legislature created the Mackinac Straits Bridge Authority of Michigan, to study the feasibility of a bridge, and authorized the Authority to sell bonds for the project.

In the mid 1930s, the Authority twice attempted to obtain federal funds for the project but was unsuccessful, despite the endorsement of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As early as 1936, a route was determined for the bridge. However, World War II put plans for a bridge on hold.

The Mackinac Straits Bridge Authority of Michigan was abolished by the state legislature in 1947 but was reauthorized 3 years later in 1950. In June 1950, a board of three engineers was retained for the project. Following a report by the engineers in January 1951, the state legislature authorized the sale of \$85 million in bonds for bridge construction. The bonds were sold and, in 1953, Dr. David B. Steinman was selected as the engineer for the project. Construction of the Mackinac Bridge began in November of 1954.

The next 3 years would bring a pitched battle between man and the elements. Engineers and ironworkers would defy nature by building a structure that would span 26,000 feet or approximately 5 miles. Not only would the bridge's five miles make it one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, but also the surrounding environs made the bridge's engineering, design and construction a formidable challenge. While most bridges cross placid water, the turbulent straits of Mackinac are ocean-like, often kicking up waves of more than six feet. The brutal northern Michigan winters further complicated construction.

These were the challenging conditions faced by the men and women who built the Mackinac Bridge. The 2,500 ironworkers and other tradesmen that built the bridge arrived at the Mackinac Straits from across the country and the small Michigan towns of St. Ignace and Mackinaw City were not quite ready for the workers' arrival. The laborers came from across the nation, hailing from hometowns in Texas, Idaho, Pennsylvania and Colorado. The laborers who built the bridge called each other by colorful nicknames such as Race Horse Roberts and Beer-Barrel Morgan. Together, they would toil tirelessly and bravely, risking life and limb to erect the bridge. Ultimately, five of them would perish in this endeavor.

The risks these workers endured were enormous. Everyday, they climbed to the top of the towers that would support the bridge's suspension cables. Lugging 40-pound belts with hammers, wrenches, bolts and steel rivets they braved 60 mile per hour winds, which would dip the wind chill to 50 degrees below zero.

Perched on a catwalk that ran between the bridge's 550-foot tall towers, the ironworkers strung the giant suspension cable from tower to tower. The cables that hold up the Mackinac Bridge are comprised of wires the workers spun together to create the suspension cables. In total, the laborers that built the bridge strung 42,000 miles of wire. In constructing the bridge, they used more than a million tons of concrete and steel. The steel is held together by 4.8 million rivets and a million bolts.

In 1957, construction was complete and, on November of that year, the bridge was opened to traffic. Today, 50 years later the Mackinac Bridge continues to tower over the Straits of Mackinac, a testament to those who toiled and died to build it. Travelers driving toward it during the day are awed by the 46-story tall towers stretching into the clouds. By night, when illuminated with thousands of lights, the bridge is an enchanting sight.

The Mackinac Bridge stands as a mighty monument. It stands as a testament to the hard work not only of 2,500 tradesmen and ironworkers that built the bridge, but also to the 7,500 workers at quarries, shops and mills in Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and New Jersey who provided the raw materials to make the bridge. The Mackinac Bridge symbolizes American ingenuity and man's ability to overcome and tame nature. Perhaps most of all, the Mackinac Bridge represents the union of the State of Michigan, two peninsulas, united by a five mile expanse of concrete and steel.

Madam Speaker, this weekend all Michigan residents will officially celebrate the Mackinac Bridge's 50th year. Our state will remember the ingenuity, brilliance and sacrifice that went into building it. I, too, will celebrate as, in the course of traveling my district, I regularly crisscross this mighty bridge, sometimes four times in a single day. Through wind, rain and snow, I have traveled across and explored the Mackinac Bridge from the inside, the outside, from above it and below it. No matter how many times a person crosses the bridge, it always remains a breathtaking sight and a graceful engineering feat! My district is comprised of Michigan's two peninsulas and 1,613 miles of shoreline. Traveling my district would be radically different, and almost impossible, without the Mackinac Bridge, which unites the two peninsulas and all of Michigan's citizens, physically and spiritually.

Madam Speaker, as Michigan celebrates the Mackinac Bridge's 50th birthday, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to this wondrous and uniquely American landmark and to the brave laborers from across our Nation who built it.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WISCONSIN CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, which is celebrating 100 years of excellence. This outstanding achievement is marked by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association's commitment to providing safe, efficient, and effective police services.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association's standards of excellence were first instituted in 1907 with the mission of supplying a public voice on social and professional issues for law enforcement. It has grown as a resource for its members by making training available in state-of-the-art concepts in policing, acting as a legislative advocate for law enforcement, providing representation for the general good of law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels, and providing open communications with the public. Its most important objective has been to ensure that Wisconsin law enforcement embodies the highest level of integrity and honesty and embraces moral and ethical behavior based on the principles found in the law enforcement code of ethics.

Today, the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association's membership spans Wisconsin and includes committees covering cutting-edge issues ranging from Homeland Security to Information Technology. And while the issues of the day may seem a far cry from those the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association dealt with 100 years ago, the call to tirelessly safeguard the lives and property of area citizens remains the same for the members of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association. Now, more than ever, our state is comforted by the knowledge that such citizens are prepared to lead in protecting our communities.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association for 100 years of protecting our communities and recognize its continuing commitment to excellence.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EUGENE
BARRETT, JR.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Eugene Barrett, Jr., who died on July 20, 2007.

A former Wyandotte County, KS Treasurer, Eugene Barrett, Jr., was born on January 26, 1930, to Eugene and Margaret Barrett of Kansas City, KS. A lifelong Kansas City resident, he served in the Korean War, after which he became a part of the local banking community at Kaw Valley State Bank, served as Wyandotte County Treasurer, and was appointed Kansas State Banking Commissioner by Governor John Carlin, a post he held from 1984 to 1987. With a long range vision for the future of Wyandotte County, he donated his time and service to many organizations, a few of which included the Wyandotte County Planning Commission, the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation Board, and the Wyandotte County 4-H Fair Board. He also served as a member of the Donnelly College Board of Trustees. Joined by his family, he also had a lifelong affiliation with the Sister Servants of Mary.

Eugene Barrett, Jr., was preceded in death by his loving wife of 42 years, Betty. He is survived by his five children: daughter Mary and husband Gary Batson; daughter Jenny Scheve; son Mike and wife Lori; son Paul and wife Erin; and son Gene and wife Anna, all of the Kansas City area. Additionally, he is survived by a sister, Sally and her husband Jim Sanders, of Lenexa, KS, 13 grandchildren, one great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, in the words of his family, Eugene Barrett, Jr., lived a meaningful and eventful life filled with loving family, and many friends will miss him dearly. I commend him for his service to our community and our state and appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the full U.S. House of Representatives.

TO EXTEND THE DESIGNATION OF LIBERIA UNDER SECTION 244 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT SO THAT LIBERIANS CAN CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of H.R. 3123, which addresses the plight of displaced Liberian nationals, a group of people that is of great regional and global importance. H.R. 3123 recognizes the importance of extending the designation of Liberia under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. KENNEDY, for excellent work in bringing this legislation forward.

H.R. 3123 extends the designation of Liberian refugees under section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act through September 30, 2008 and expands the designation of Liberia under the Immigration and Nationality Act as a country whose nationals are eligible for temporary protected status and work authorization in the United States. In addition, H.R. 3123 sets forth eligibility requirements for Liberian nationals or persons having no nationality whose last habitual residence was Liberia.

Madam Speaker, let us remember that from 1989 to 1996 the Liberian civil war claimed the lives of more than 200,000 Liberians and further displaced a million others into refugee camps in neighboring and distant countries, including our own. The United States and other countries have provided relief to Liberians. By supporting this bill we can show our affection and commitment to people of Liberia.

The United States has a historical connection to all Liberians, but we also have a moral responsibility to end the killings and mass displacement of innocent citizens. The termination of TPS designation of Liberia would place many Liberians that fled to our country for refuge at risk of being returned prematurely.

Madam Speaker, the elimination of TPS designation means that on October 2, 2007, former TPS beneficiaries will return to the same immigration status they maintained before registering for TPS, or to any other status they may have acquired while registered for Temporarily Protection Status. Accordingly, if an individual did not have lawful immigration status at the time of receiving TPS benefits, and did not obtain any other status during the TPS designation period, he or she will revert to being without lawful status. Such individuals are expected to depart the United States on or before October 1, 2007. Those who do not comply with this requirement may be subject to removal.

The Liberian people living in our country deserve better treatment and protection than the current Immigration and Nationality Act can afford. Congress needs to permit the extension of section 244 which enables the people to re-register for temporary protection status and work authorization.

Let us give the Liberian people the respect and protection they need by supporting H.R. 3123.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Second Chance Act which provides assistance to individuals who have been incarcerated, including the expungement of their records.

Individuals released from prison have no chance of becoming productive members of society because their criminal records prevent employers from considering them for jobs. This leads many of them to return to lives of crime. In an effort to change the dynamic of recidivism, we must remove barriers to employment—particularly criminal records—which hang over the heads of ex-offenders, even those who have been rehabilitated.

The Second Chance Act allocates \$360 million towards programs that would help the ex-offenders adjust to their new environment after their release from prison. Focusing on four different areas: employment, housing, access to health services and families, it would provide a secure setting for the individual and make the transition easier, which would reduce the rate of recidivism.

Almost two thirds of newly discharged individuals return to their lives of crime within 3 years of their release. This signifies a great number of crimes being committed that could have prevented through effective programs, which is one of the components of this legislation. Billions of dollars are being wasted in the criminal justice system mostly because of the prosecutions of repeat offenders.

If we do not take the necessary actions to help these individuals, they will be trapped in the cycle of recidivism. We must take action to help them break the cycle.

TRIBUTE TO FOSTER TOWNSHIP

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Foster Township in Madison County, IL, upon her sesquicentennial. Foster Township includes all of town 6 range 9 west. A celebration will be held in Fosterburg, IL, on August 18 and 19, 2007 to celebrate this special occasion.

Though impossible to know for certain who the first settlers of the township were, legend is that Granny McAfee and her family settled in section 28 in 1816. On October 11, 1820 the first known land purchases were recorded and the land was purchased directly from the United States Government by five individuals. Early settlers included the Beemans, Decks, Edwards, Reynolds, Waggoners, Hamiltons, Gallops, Kyles, Rhodes, Fosters, Woods, Shorts, Doolings, Sherfys, Dillons, Crowders, Eatons, Bevills, Wilsons, Chandlers, Jinkinsons, Browns, Thompsons, Warners, Lobblings, and Titchenals.

As the township was located along the road between Alton and Springfield, it often served as a stage relay station for travelers. President Abraham Lincoln was one such traveler who

visited Foster Township staying at both the Clayton House and the Foster Inn.

I am pleased to congratulate the citizens of Foster Township on this special occasion. I thank them for their contributions to this great nation. May God bless Foster Township!

IN HONOR OF THE HOMECOMING
OF LANCE CORPORAL MATHEW
LIBERTO OF FLEMINGTON, NEW
JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share in the celebration of LCpl Mathew Liberto's homecoming. Mat serves honorably with the 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has just returned from a deployment to Al-Qaim and a forward-operating base near Waleed on the Syrian border.

Today, his employer, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM) is officially welcoming Mat home with all the pomp and circumstance deserved by a great American hero. He will be honored for his service along with his fellow employee, Joseph Bethea of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, a National Guard Flight Operations Sergeant with the 150th General Support Aviation Battalion of the 42nd Infantry Division. Joe also recently returned from deployment to Iraq.

I commend these gentlemen for their commitment to the ideals of freedom and liberty and to the sacrifices they have made that make it possible for those ideals to exist in our lives today. I also commend New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, which is today treating these men to a hero's welcome. Not only did the employees of NJM take the time to correspond regularly with their deployed colleagues, they also sent them and their units care packages. This compassion and community is the strength of our national fabric, and it is an honor to share their story for posterity.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHARLIE
MCFARLAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Dr. Charlie McFarland for being honored with a President's Call to Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The award, presented by former quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel, honors Dr. McFarland's years of volunteer service. The majority of his efforts have been dedicated to the Special Olympics program which he not only created for Okaloosa County but helped begin for the State of Florida and even the Nation.

McFarland took his first group of disabled students to Special Olympics games in South Carolina in 1969. After seeing how beneficial the program was for that first group of 20 students, the school district applied for a charter from the Kennedy Foundation for the State of Florida. The charter was approved and in 1970 Florida held its first games, with 20 counties participating.

Over the years, McFarland has taken every opportunity to raise greater awareness of the program and raise much needed funds for it. He has convinced such big-name artists as Kenny Rogers, Alabama, Reba McEntire, Glen Campbell, the Oak Ridge Boys and the late Lewis Gizzard to perform or support the local program, has successfully lobbied NASA and Congress to allow Col. Dick Covey to take the Special Olympics flag on the space shuttle *Discovery*, and has helped the special education Silver Sand School obtain both a new track and pool.

In 1993, Dr. McFarland was named one of the charter members of the Florida Special Olympics Hall of Fame, and has kept serving with the Special Olympics even after he retired as an educator in 1995.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Dr. Charlie McFarland for his tireless contributions to the Special Olympics program.

HONORING JOHN D. SEAMAN, JR.,
OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize MSgt. John D. Seaman, Jr., from St. Petersburg, Florida. The son of Shirley and John Seaman of Inverness, Florida, Sergeant Seaman was born in Greenwich, Connecticut on July 23, 1959, and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, in July 1964. He attended schools in St. Petersburg, as well as Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, while his father was stationed in the United States Coast Guard.

A 1977 graduate of Northeast High School in St. Petersburg, Sergeant Seaman worked and attended junior college for several years before enlisting in the Air Force in 1982. In 1984, Sergeant Seaman transferred to the Florida Air National Guard and joined the 290th Combat Communications Squadron, where he was assigned as a Satellite Communications Technician. Since then he has held numerous communications positions and been promoted throughout the ranks of the Florida Guard.

Throughout his military career, Sergeant Seaman has played an important role in many of the conflicts in which the United States military has taken part. He was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm, redesigned the communications architecture required for the invasion of Afghanistan, and was deployed to the Philippines for the start of Operation Enduring Freedom. Today Sergeant Seaman serves as the Transmissions Branch Superintendent assigned to the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, MacDill AFB, Florida.

A devoted family man, Sergeant Seaman is married to the former Kathleen R. Felton of Clifton, New Jersey, and they have two sons, John David and Michael Robert. A volunteer in his community, Sergeant Seaman is also an assistant coach for AA minor league baseball for North East Little League.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like MSgt. John Seaman, Jr., who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like John serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.