

DISAPPROVAL OF OBLIGATIONS
UNDER THE EMERGENCY ECO-
NOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, although I have deep misgivings about the Bush Administration's handling of the first \$350 billion tranche of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, I rise in opposition to the resolution of disapproval.

When Congress passed the rescue package, it was with the understanding that doing so would prevent the stock market from collapsing, inject enough cash into the market to facilitate the flow of credit, and give the Department of Treasury the authority to require mortgage holders to renegotiate troubled mortgages. While stock indexes have lost value, the rescue package restored enough investor confidence to stabilize markets, avoiding the economic calamity predicted by many.

However, the Bush Administration did too little to ensure that the funds were used to achieve the other two goals. For example, many small business owners in my district can no longer access loans with reasonable terms. Even some with good credit must rely on credit cards with interest rates that can range from 20 to 35%. Banks receiving federal assistance should be compelled to continue to lend.

With regard to homeownership, I also have not seen adequate progress. Treasury claims it is helping more than 200,000 homeowners avoid foreclosure each month, but I have yet to hear from a constituent who has received assistance. The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) gave Treasury the authority to require lenders to renegotiate troubled mortgages, a process that can benefit all parties, but President Bush did not use that authority.

Independent TARP overseers have found numerous problems in every report. From changing the central strategy of the program to providing inadequate justification for decisions, the Bush Administration did not meet its responsibilities. However, we cannot use the Bush Administration's failures as an excuse to deny these funds which continue to be needed. That is why yesterday, the House passed legislation, H.R. 384, to set stringent conditions on the remaining \$350 billion.

Fortunately, President Obama has made assurances that he will implement tough reforms including directing at least \$50 billion toward foreclosure mitigation, using his full arsenal of tools to get credit flowing to American families and small businesses, increasing transparency in the financial system, and creating stronger reporting requirements for firms receiving funds. These conditions were included in H.R. 384.

I oppose the resolution because the reforms included in the House bill and proposed by President Obama, along with a recovery package, an end to abusive credit card practices, and regulatory reform, will help aid American families, save small businesses, and revitalize our economy.

IN HONOR OF THE GABILAN
CHAPTER OF KINSHIP CENTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gabilan Chapter of Kinship Center for their fifty-three years of service dedicated to children in need of foster and adoptive families. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to the Gabilan Chapter of Kinship Center the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for their past and future service.

San Benito County, in Central California, is a region of rich farm and ranch land that has generously served the families of the area for generations. But perhaps the most valuable resource of that community is the people themselves, as represented by the women of the Gabilan Chapter of Kinship Center. For fifty-three years, this group of philanthropically-minded women has raised critically needed funds to help the most needy and at-risk children in the county—the neglected, abused and abandoned children who need a safe, permanent home through foster care and adoption.

In 1989, the Gabilan Chapter partnered with the Monterey County based Kinship Center which shared their mission to create permanent homes for the area's most vulnerable children. Through this twenty-year partnership, the Gabilan Chapter women have continued to dedicate themselves to their mission as the Gabilan Chapter of Kinship Center. Each year, funds raised by the Gabilan Chapter support vital services to children in transition and new families struggling to meet the needs of children in their care. Kinship Center celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year—success due in no small way to the steadfast support of the Gabilan Chapter.

Each year the dedicated Gabilan Chapter volunteers organize one of the oldest wine tasting festivals in California, as well as a historic home tour. They sell cookbooks, aprons and hand crocheted quilts. They award an annual post-secondary scholarship to a local student from a foster, adoptive or group home. Their efforts are a year-round operation run with professional effectiveness by women who also have full-time careers managing businesses, ranches, farms, vineyards and households.

The women of Gabilan are more than a group of hardworking volunteers. They represent the best of our Nation. They are an icon of the American spirit of caring and hard work forged by the pioneers who settled this land. After three generations, they have created a tradition of active philanthropy that is an institution in their community.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the Gabilan Chapter of Kinship Center as a model of public service, an expression of what makes our Nation a worldwide leader in strong and compassionate philanthropy. May their continued success inspire many more generations to become involved in their communities here at home and throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING SMITHA RAMA-
KRISHNA FOR HER ACHIEVE-
MENTS IN THE 2009 INTEL
SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Smitha Ramakrishna, who has been selected as a Semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2009 competition. The Intel STS is one of the Nation's most prestigious science competitions for high school seniors, and has been held annually for the past 68 years. Smitha is one of 300 Semifinalists selected out of 1,600 students who entered the competition.

All of the Semifinalists for this competition are now eligible to become one of the 40 Finalists who then move on to compete in Washington, DC, for top awards, including a grand prize of \$100,000. As you can see from Smitha's project title "Analysis of the Chemical and Biological Degradation of Sucralose in Synthetic Wastewater", she is a serious student with a bright future in the sciences.

As a former high school teacher, I am always especially glad to know when students are awarded for their academic successes. Smitha should be very proud of this achievement.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Smitha Ramakrishna for her fine academic accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE PREECE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to salute a distinguished servant of the U.S. Congress in the field of foreign affairs. At the beginning of February 2009, Charlotte Preece will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 32 productive years of service to the legislative branch. Ms. Preece has spent her entire professional career at CRS serving the U.S. Congress in multiple capacities. She joined CRS in July 1976 as an analyst in European Affairs. In that capacity, she authored dozens of reports for the Congress on issues in U.S. European relations. She was promoted to specialist in European Affairs in 1982, and later headed the Defense Manpower, Budget, and Policy Analysis section for 3 years before becoming assistant chief of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division.

She served the last 17 years of her CRS career as the Chief of the Foreign Affairs Division, a position to which she was named in 1991. After a reorganization of CRS in 2000, the Foreign Affairs Division was expanded to incorporate international trade and finance specialists and was renamed the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division. Ms. Preece became the Congressional Research Service's assistant director for Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade. In that capacity, she has supervised a staff that has grown to about 90 policy analysts and is responsible for directing the

research agenda to support the work of the U.S. Congress in foreign affairs, defense, and trade.

In honoring Charlotte Preece for her service at this time of great challenge for our country, both economically and in foreign affairs, it is worth pausing for a moment to consider the strengths and contributions consistently made to the U.S. Congress by the Congressional Research Service, where Ms. Preece has spent her professional career. We are so well served by this institution, and Ms. Preece epitomizes one of the greatest strengths that CRS offers to the congressional clients it serves: its long-serving analysts are a reservoir of "institutional memory" that continually builds on past knowledge and informs future decisions.

The importance of CRS' "institutional memory" is evident when considering even a brief list of the critical issues that have come before Congress during Ms. Preece's tenure at CRS: the signing of the Camp David Accord by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin in 1978; the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1979; the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China in 1979; the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Tiananmen Square Crackdown in China in 1989; the end of the Cold War and demise of the Soviet Union beginning in 1989; the Gulf War in 1991; the end of South African apartheid by 1993; the devastating terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001; the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001; and the toppling of Saddam Hussein at the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003. All of these critical events and more unfolded on Ms. Preece's watch at CRS, giving her unique insight and invaluable expertise to a Congress that saw much turnover during the same period. Of the 535 Members who served in the 94th Congress in 1976, when Ms. Preece began her CRS service, only 21 are still serving in 2008: 14 in the House, and 7 in the Senate. Newly elected Members are well served by having access to CRS experts that have not just read about but have worked closely on the policy issues of recent decades.

I also want to reflect for a few minutes on the attributes and talents of Ms. Preece herself. Before coming to CRS in 1976, she earned her bachelor's of arts degree in international relations and Soviet area studies at the Pennsylvania State University, where she graduated summa cum laude. She went on to earn a master's degree in international security studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. At CRS, she had the distinction of being the youngest person the Service has ever named to attend the U.S. National War College, graduating with the class of 1983. As head of the CRS Terrorism Task Force, Charlotte Preece personally directed the massive and extraordinarily helpful CRS effort to provide Congress with timely and crucial policy analysis and information in the tragic days and weeks after 9/11.

In her distinguished career with CRS, Charlotte Preece has always understood and respected the power and special needs of Congress, including its legislative and oversight responsibilities as well as its obligation to represent the interests of constituents. She has always found time to serve as a mentor, counselor, and friend to others, whether it be to those she supervised, new congressional staff, or newly elected Members of Congress. Her exceptional skills at framing policy issues, her abilities in research management, and her in-

stinctive grasp of the needs and aspirations of those she has supervised have earned her the respect and loyalty of her team. Charlotte Preece will be greatly missed, as will the loss of her exceptional leadership of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of CRS. We offer her our deepest gratitude for her many years of contributions to the work of the Congress, and we wish her well.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DAVID CHARLES CHEEK

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend David Charles Cheek, an outstanding community leader in Kentucky's Fourth District. On January 8, 2009, the May's Lick Baptist Church held a celebration in honor of Reverend Cheek's 20 years of service to the Baptist Conference.

In 1989, Reverend Cheek was called to serve as pastor of May's Lick Baptist Church. He is the church's forty-third pastor.

Reverend Cheek has helped May's Lick Baptist Church expand its services to the community. Not only has the Church built a modern nursery and a Family Life Center during Reverend Cheek's tenure, they have also expanded the Sanctuary, purchased additional property and a new bus, developed an Educational Facility and settled all the Church debts.

Over the last 20 years, Reverend Cheek has ordained seven Deacons and has worked with four youth ministers. He has also mentored four individuals who eventually became ministers, three of whom were ordained at May's Lick Baptist Church. Reverend Cheek has served as Vacation Bible School Director for Bracken Association of Baptists for 20 years. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Bracken Association of Baptists and is a member of the Bracken Association Council.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Reverend Cheek for 20 years of extraordinary work. We are all blessed to have such a dedicated servant in May's Lick, Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNTAIN HILLS CHAPTER OF FCCLA FOR THEIR GENEROUS EFFORTS TO AID THE CHILDREN OF UGANDA

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fountain Hills chapter of Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for its service project "To Uganda, Love Fountain Hills." This town-wide drive to collect backpack and school supplies will culminate with members of the FCCLA traveling to Uganda to distribute the donations to local school children.

The fundraiser began in December of 2008 and is expected to last until the group travels

to Uganda in the summer. So far, it has collected more than \$11,000 from friends, parents, teachers, and generous community members. In addition to delivering the school supplies while in Uganda, the FCCLA plans to serve in construction and well digging crews, schools, food banks, and health clinics.

I am particularly proud, Madam Speaker, to recognize Claire McWilliams, a Fountain Hills High School teacher and FCCLA sponsor. Claire coordinated the entire project and continues to serve as an inspiration to her community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fountain Hills chapter of FCCLA and its sponsor, Claire McWilliams, for their selfless work to raise money and collect supplies for the children of Uganda.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TRAMMELL CROW, SR.

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my dear friend, Trammell Crow, Sr. He was a legendary real estate developer, a lover of the arts, and a generous philanthropist.

Born in East Dallas, Mr. Crow came from humble beginnings working various odd jobs in high school from cleaning bricks to delivering new cars. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School, Mr. Crow took a job with Mercantile National Bank while taking night classes. At age of 24, he became the youngest certified public accountant in Texas and joined Ernst & Ernst as an entry-level auditor. Wanting to serve his country, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and reached the rank of Commander before returning to Dallas in 1942.

Upon his return, Mr. Crow partnered with John Stemmons and assisted with the development of the Trinity Industrial District. His work ethic and dedication propelled him to great success and led to the establishment of an internationally recognized company. Mr. Crow's mark on Dallas can be easily seen in the Dallas skyline. The Dallas Design District, the Hartford Insurance Company Building, Dallas Market Hall, Stemmons Towers, Bryan Tower, San Jacinto Tower, and the Dallas Infomart are only a few examples of his many development projects. In addition to his successful career, Mr. Crow deeply believed in giving back to his community. His generosity extended to numerous nonprofits and causes including Southern Methodist University, where the Crow building in the Cox School of Business educates the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Crow was one of America's greatest developers. His life story is one that demonstrates the American Dream is achievable with hard work and dedication. Throughout his professional career, he overcame the odds, conquered obstacles and achieved tremendous success. He cared deeply for his family, friends, and community and it evident to all who knew him. I am honored to have known him and called him my friend. He will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with