

Reinstating the Uptick rule so that short sellers do not have an advantage in driving down the value of stocks.

Today, I am introducing the "Stock Market Recovery Act of 2009," mandating the SEC to implement these reforms. I am confident this will be a first step continuing the 4 percent rise we have seen today.

THRIFT SAVINGS FUND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act. This legislation expands the investment options available to congressional and other federal employees by creating a precious metals investment fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Adding a precious metals fund to the TSP will enhance the plan's ability to offer congressional employees a wide range of investment options that can provide financial security even during difficult economic conditions.

The Thrift Savings Plan is one of the most important benefits offered to congressional employees. A strong TSP can obviously play a key role in attracting and retaining talented individuals to serve in the legislative branch. Adding a precious metals option will strengthen the TSP. In the last year, the price of gold rose by 5.5 percent while the Dow Jones experienced one of its worst years ever, falling by 33.8 percent, while the NASDAQ declined by 40.5 percent!

Recent gains aside, precious metals have a number of features that make them a sound part of a prudent investment strategy. In particular, inflation does not erode the value of precious metals is not eroded over time. Thus, precious metals can serve as a valuable "inflation hedge." Precious metals also maintain, or even increase, their value during times of stock market instability, such as what the country is currently experiencing. Thus, investments in precious metals can help ensure that an investment portfolio maintains its value during times of economic instability.

Federal employees could greatly benefit from the protection against inflation and economic downturns provided by prudent investments in precious metals. I, therefore, once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day. Globally, women have made great advances in recent years. Currently, there is the largest number of women serving in Congress in the history of the United States, including 9 new female members of the House of Representatives and 3 new female Senators. Between 1945 and 1995, the number of woman

parliamentarians internationally quadrupled. Women like Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, are demonstrative of the truly universal role women are playing in leadership and the progress we have made.

While these numbers are encouraging, there is still a long journey to true global equality for women. Seventy percent of the 1.2 billion individuals living in poverty are women. Similarly, eighty percent of world's refugees are women. While women control \$14 trillion in assets, they only own 1 percent of the world's land. Women are responsible for two-thirds of the world's work, but are paid only 10 percent of the world's income. In third-world countries, women continue to be oppressed, mutilated, and trafficked and they do not have the representation to stand up to these injustices.

As a woman, I wanted to take the opportunity to speak to the progress we have made and the progress we have yet to achieve. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the continued progress for women internationally and at home.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105;

Requesting Member: Congressman SAM GRAVES

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Project expected to be included in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Description of Request: I am requesting funding for the Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO project in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Missouri Western State University located at 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO, 64507. The funding would be used for the acquisition of technology and equipment for Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences. This funding is located in the Higher Education FIPSE account.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Carole Payne of Boonton. Carole serves as the school nurse at Crim School. Carole helps develop health policies and procedures in the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. The New Jersey Department of Health asked her to come up with a manual on emergency care in the school setting for school nurses.

Carole is a certified EMT and active on the Boonton First Aid Squad. She also teaches at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark and won the distinguished Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship.

I am pleased to congratulate Carole Payne for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MILITARY FAMILIES OF OUR NATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues today the opportunity to recognize the outstanding military families of our nation. In Eastern Washington, I could not be more proud of the military families as well as our community that stands behind them. There is probably no other group more schooled in the art of patience than our military families. They have to learn to be flexible and to endure because they are apart of a system that for all its structure is still quite unpredictable.

Last August, the 81st Brigade from Washington State deployed to Iraq. Although it is challenging for the men and women who serve, it is sometimes harder for those at home. More often than not, as soon as the service member deploys, the spouse is faced with an unforeseen obstacle like their brand new car needing to go back to the shop or the refrigerator deciding not to work. Children often times go back to school and find it hard to understand why mom or dad has to miss their baseball game or piano recital. The families of the 81st Brigade have much catching up to do when they return home this summer. They will have a Thanksgiving to celebrate, Christmas presents to open, birthday candles to blow out, Easter eggs to hunt and many, many kisses and hugs to share.

A military spouse once wrote that "the cycle of deployments, missed holidays, lonely anniversaries, and long separations, isn't governed by any war or what's being debated on CNN. It is as much a part of our daily living as weekend business trips and conference calls are to the average business person. It is part of the job description." To all the military families in our nation, your character and bravery make you role models to us all and your service does not go unnoticed. Know that our nation is tremendously grateful for your commitment in standing beside your Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, or Marine so that he or she can fight to continue to protect our freedoms. Please accept my utmost and sincerest "thank you" for your honorable service.

SECRETARY CLINTON VISIT

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, I was greatly encouraged by the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to our ally, Turkey. This historic visit sends a clear signal that the United States greatly values its strategic partnership with Turkey—which has benefited both of nations for over half a century.

During the visit, Secretary Clinton announced an upcoming trip to Turkey by President Barack Obama, and together with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Babacan released a Joint Statement.

Over the coming months, I am convinced that U.S.-Turkish relations will continue to deepen and flourish under the stewardship of President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the new Administration. It is clear that a strong and mutually respectful friendship is in the national interests of the United States and Turkey, and also serves to promote regional peace, security and prosperity. To that end, I encourage all of my colleagues to review the text of Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Babacan's joint statement, which I am including in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JOINT STATEMENT BY TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON UPON THE INVITATION OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY ALI BABACAN, MARCH 7, 2009

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Ali Babacan today reaffirmed the strong bonds of alliance, solidarity and strategic partnership between the Republic of Turkey and the United States, as well as the commitment of both countries to the principles of peace, democracy, freedom, and prosperity enshrined in the Shared Vision and Structured Dialogue document agreed to in July 2006.

Turkey and the United States reiterated their determination to continue close cooperation and consultation on all issues of common concern. They pledge to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East and in this context, to support a permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of a two-state solution; to enhance energy security and to expand the Southern corridor of natural gas and oil infrastructure to enable Caspian basin and Iraqi energy producers to reach European and world markets; to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the south Caucasus, including through U.S. support for the efforts of Turkey and Armenia to normalize relations and joint support for the efforts of the Minsk Group to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict; to continue to cooperate in the Balkans; to support strongly a comprehensive and mutually-acceptable settlement of the Cyprus question under the auspices of the UN and in this context ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots; and to enhance their cooperation in the fight against terrorism, particularly against their common enemies, the PKK and al-Qaeda. The United States will continue its intelligence support for Turkish operations against the PKK and is reviewing ways to be more supportive. As members of the G-20,

Turkey and the United States pledge continued cooperation to deal with the global economic crisis and efforts to increase and diversify bilateral economic relations with particular emphasis on trade, investment, scientific and technological cooperation.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Babacan discussed Turkey's accession to the European Union as a member, a goal the United States continues to strongly support, as well as the Government of Turkey's continued emphasis on reform process. With their commitment to Transatlantic relations and as Allies in a strong NATO, they pledge continued cooperation in Afghanistan, including through continued Turkish contributions to Afghanistan. They reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq as well as reiterated their support for a democratic, pluralistic, unified and federal Iraq. They also welcome Turkey's deepening relations with the Government of Iraq as evidenced by high level visits as well as trilateral meetings to discuss cooperation against the PKK. Turkey and the United States will strongly back the United Nations Security Council in its work to maintain global peace and security for the prevention and removal of threats to the international community and in this context will cooperate in dealing with issues including terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the region and beyond.

Finally, they reaffirmed their determination to diversify the broad based bilateral relations particularly between the Turkish and American people. In that context, the Secretary and Minister announced the establishment of "Young Turkey/Young America: A New Relationship for a New Age." This initiative will enable emerging young leaders in Turkey and the United States to develop initiatives that will positively impact people's lives and invest in future ties between the leadership of our two countries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Friday, March 6, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Rollcall vote #107 (on approval of the journal), "Aye" on Rollcall vote #108 (Motion to Recommit with instructions to H.J. Res. 38), "Nay" on Rollcall vote #109 (on passage of H.J. Res. 38).

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Education Award winner is Elizabeth Stitley of Somerville. She currently serves as a supervisor of Allied Health Programs at Somerset County Technology Institute since 2003.

In this capacity, Elizabeth has spearheaded the growth of the program, which now offers two full-time, day practical nursing programs and an evening program. She was instrumental in adding a new skills laboratory with a task-training center that will soon be equipped with cameras.

Elizabeth has served as president of the Practical Nurse Educators Council and of the New Jersey League for Nursing, and received the league's 2004 President's Award. She also is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society.

I am pleased to congratulate Elizabeth Stitley for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: CJS: COPS Law Enforcement technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charles Town Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 114 West Liberty Street, Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$124,000: The Charles Town Police Department is seeking funds to upgrade their technological capabilities to meet the needs of a growing community. This funding will be used to provide computers that can be used in the office and in police vehicles that will allow them to integrate into various databases that are available via the intranet and internet; provide a server with enough space to allow them to utilize various databases for information storage and retrieval; provide a case management system that will allow the police department to generate forms, conduct searches as well as integrate case and document management; and provide the police department the opportunity to store documents electronically versus a paper format.

Requesting Member: SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act