

advice is irresponsible and imprudent. During consideration of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, many of my colleagues were well intended with respect to ensuring that if workers were to receive investment advice with respect to their retirement savings, it would be independent. Despite their good intentions, the process of the bill's consideration created a statutory loophole; at the end of the regulatory process, conflicted advice could be offered to workers.

In lieu of exposing workers to conflicted investment advice, CIAPA would permit independent investment advisers to provide advice to workers regarding their retirement goals. Furthermore, it would maintain the allowance of the computer model arrangement so long as an independent expert or agency certifies the model.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING PARENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) in Northern Virginia. These associations serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Schools located throughout Northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through PTAs and PTSAs. Parent volunteers exist in a number of capacities within each school ranging from providing planning and implementation help for social events to helping ensure that teachers have the classroom resources they need to succeed.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission.

I am pleased to present the following recognitions for 2008–2009 school year:

PTA Schools of Excellence designations have been awarded to the Lake Anne Elementary School PTA and Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA.

The PTAs at Mantua Elementary School and Oakton Elementary School were acknowledged by the National Parent Teacher Association for their outstanding participation in Take Your Family to School Week.

Eight schools have achieved a PTA membership level exceeding one member per student attending the school. Those associations are Chesterbrook Elementary PTA, Falls Church Elementary PTA, Flint Hill Elementary PTA, Haycock Elementary PTA, Langley High School PTSA, Nottingham Elementary PTA,

Waynewood Elementary PTA, and Wolftrap Elementary PTA. All members involved should recognize that these remarkably high levels of parental involvement suggest a strong commitment to ensure a quality public education within our school systems.

The growth and expansion of PTAs is an important part of sustaining the impact of the associations. The Virginia PTA provided a charter for the Quander Road School PTSA in Alexandria. Kelly Greenwood, who serves as President of Quander Road School PTSA, and the school's principal, William Files, should be commended for their efforts to engage parents to participate in this association's founding.

Of particular note are the contributions of three individuals to their respective schools' PTAs: Kristen Arseneau, of Terra Centre Elementary School PTA, was awarded the District Outstanding Achievement Award;

Sue Bernstein, of Hollin Meadows Elementary PTA, has been named District Volunteer of the Year for Primary Schools;

Robin Harris, of George C. Marshall High School PTSA, was named District Volunteer of the Year for Secondary Schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of these individuals and the organizations with which they work. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated volunteers.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE BILL ORTON

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember our friend and former colleague William "Bill" Orton, who served with distinction in this chamber from 1991 to 1997. I had the great honor of serving alongside Bill and working closely with him in the early days of the Blue Dog Coalition.

During his time in this body and—before that, working in the executive branch—Bill proved himself to be thoughtful and honorable, and those of us who had the pleasure to serve with him know that he entered public service for the right reasons. He cared deeply about the future of this country and understood the importance of ensuring fiscal sustainability for the generations of Americans who come after us.

Betty Ann and I, along with many others in Congress and across our country, were deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife Jacquelyn and their sons Will and Wesley during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate you and our colleagues joining us to remember Bill's service to our nation and offer our condolences to his family and to all Utahns.

U.S. NAVY SEALS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand in this hall that is a symbol for the world of our country's freedom. Americans have fought and paid the ultimate price for this nation and the freedoms we value so deeply.

That is why it is such an honor for me to stand before you today Madam Speaker, because today I am standing to say thank you and to cheer from the gallery for the world to hear—All hail the men and women of the United States Navy and all hail the brave men of the Navy SEALs.

For all the flags we fly and yellow ribbons we tie, for all the times we stand in support of the job carried out by our service men and women. Rarely does a moment come when we as a nation get a chance to thank these individuals whose duty and job it is to go far beyond the limits and demands of a normal soldier.

Rare is the chance this nation gets to see and understand exactly how good these men are at their job, till now.

On Wednesday April 8th a crew of pirates took hostage an unarmed American merchant ship. Captured was Captain Richard Phillips and for 5 days this Sea Captain was held at gun point on a small boat drifting at sea.

On Easter Sunday after many days of unrest, a team of Navy SEALs were sent in to rescue Captain Phillips. It only took 3 shots from sniper rifles and a matter of minutes for the SEALs to disable all the 3 pirates on the ship and free Captain Phillips.

These brave Navy SEALs take the responsibility to continuously put themselves in the thick of the most dangerous situations the world presents. These SEALs risk their lives to protect Americans and they do it not for their gain and not for glory. They do it out of love for a country and fellow Americans.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy stood before this nation and talked about the ever changing world that we lived in, how war itself was changing and in order for this country to continue to thrive and protect its own interests this country needed to establish a small, elite military force that could conduct covert missions and battle unconventional warfare. To that end the United States created one of the most highly trained and skilled unit in our armed forces, the Navy SEALs.

A SEAL spends two years training in the harshest conditions simply for the right to do this job. A SEAL's life is one of just being a step ahead of death. These brave men begin a mission and all too often only their failures are ever known.

An opportunity for this nation to stop and thank these SEALs for all that they have done does not come around that often and I for one am glad that today I get this chance.

We need more people like these SEALs in this country, people who are willing to put this nation first and their petty differences aside for the greater good.

We need more people in this country who are willing to stand for all that is right and honorable in this world and be willing to defend those that are weak, held down or scared to fight for themselves.

We need to stop expecting someone else to do the tough jobs for us and start doing them ourselves.

These SEALs are heroes, plain and simple and the debt we owe them, I fear we will never truly be able to repay them. God bless these SEALs, God Bless the men and women who protect this nation each and every day and God Bless America.

And that is just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD ROGGE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Richard Rogge, a G-man's G-man, an FBI supervisor on the John F. Kennedy assassination, a man of integrity who stood up to years of accusations from conspiracy theorists, and longtime friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Richard, who died last week at age 82, worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 30 years. He was serving in the Criminal Division at FBI headquarters on November 25, 1963, when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover summoned him and told him to fly to Dallas to supervise the investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

For the next 10 months, Richard and his fellow G-men worked 16-hour days following every lead and theory and disproving many that later became fodder for the conspiracists. After an exhaustive investigation, Richard and his team determined that a lone gunman seeking personal fame fired the shots that felled a president. He never wavered from that conviction.

Richard returned to Washington, DC, and later served as assistant special agent in charge in Los Angeles, an inspector in Washington, DC, and special agent in charge in Honolulu, Hawaii, Richmond, Virginia, and Buffalo, New York.

Richard and his family moved to Southern California upon his retirement from the FBI in 1977.

Prior to joining the FBI, Richard joined the Marine Corps. He was 17 at the time and served in World War II's Pacific Theater. Among the battles he fought was the invasion of Iwo Jima.

He was attending New York University studying law when he joined the FBI. Studying at night, he switched majors and graduated college with a degree in business.

Madam Speaker, Richard Rogge was an FBI agent at a time when only shoe leather, brain power, grit and determination solved crimes, before the investigative techniques and technology we now take for granted were developed. He was a man of integrity and passion and served his country with honor. Barbara, his wife of 47 years, died in 1995, but I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to their children, Veronica, Richard Jr., Christopher and Meredith, to their family, and to all who called Richard a friend.

Godspeed, Richard.

CONGRATULATING MILDRED "MIDGE" SLATER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mildred "Midge" Slater on her recent retirement as a Representative for the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Midge has spent the last 30 plus years in the social justice and labor movements. After spending time in the Pittsburgh and upstate New York areas, Midge settled in Iowa and forged a commitment to fighting for civil rights, women's rights and worker's rights.

Midge became active in the CWA, serving in many capacities including Chief Steward, Vice President and President. She went on to serve many years as a CWA International Representative fostering and mentoring many into the fight for social and economic justice while forming strong bonds with those she came to know.

I'm happy to report that despite being retired she still remains active in CWA as she continues to go to the Iowa Capital advocating for others. She has also taken on the task of organizing other retirees to continue to advocate for others.

Midge continues to be active on her church board and serves on many other boards across the state, including the Iowa Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO and the Iowa Citizens Action Network. I congratulate her on all of her success and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

STATE AND LOCAL PREDATORY TOWING ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, since the mid-1990's the authority to regulate the towing industry had been in limbo. Through a provision slipped into the Federal Aviation Administration Act of 1994 that defined the tow truck industry as an interstate carrier, state and local regulatory authority of tow truck operations has been preempted. One year later, passage of the Interstate Commerce Termination Act struck down the federal regulatory body that oversaw the towing industry.

With no federal regulator and confusing restrictions and conflicting court rulings on what states and localities are permitted to regulate, no level of government has been able to adequately regulate the towing industry. This lack of regulatory authority has led to more than a decade of major consumer abuses by some unscrupulous towing companies across the country. These bad actors have continued to taint an otherwise much needed and respectable profession.

Complaints about exorbitant towing fees and abusive operators grew so bad that in 2005, Congress agreed, through an amendment to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy of Users

(SAFETEA-LU), to allow some limited state regulation in the area on non-consensual towing. The amendment also directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to identify additional means to protect the rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed.

That study offers some recommendations that track with conclusions I made several years ago, that consumers and tow truck operators would be better served by removing the last vestiges of federal preemption. It notes that consumers needing redress for overcharges today or other unfair treatment would no longer be in the Catch-22 position of having their State case thrown out on preemption grounds only to find that they may have no real recourse at the Federal level either. Since business practices vary from place to place, it may also be more practical to have non-consensual towing regulated by the States rather than by the Federal Government.

States are the more logical place to regulate towing. They already have an established body of law in place to do so. This legislation I am introducing today will bring those laws back into effect.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MICHAEL STERN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of philanthropist Michael Stern and to pay tribute to his life of helping others and supporting our military families.

Michael Stern began his career as a journalist, writing for newspapers and magazines before joining the U.S. Army in 1943 as a war correspondent. He traveled with American forces through Sicily and southern Italy; entering Rome a day before the Allies took control in June of 1944. He remained in Italy for the next 50 years, continuing to write articles, publishing a book, and producing several Italian-made films.

Through his friendship with developer Zachary Fisher, the two men started the Intrepid Museum Foundation in 1978. The USS Intrepid (CVS-11), a World War II aircraft carrier in the Pacific Theater, was decommissioned in 1974 and planned to be scrapped. Stern and Fisher led a fundraising campaign to save the carrier, and in 1982 the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum opened to the public. It became a National Historic Landmark four years later.

In the early 1990s, the men established the Fisher House program to provide our service members and their families with temporary lodging at military bases and VA medical facilities all across the United States. This unique private-public partnership enables families to stay together while undergoing long-term medical treatment from injury or illness. Over 10,000 military families are guests at a Fisher House every year, and their expenses are taken care of by the Foundation.

Stern and Fisher also created the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation at Rockefeller University, where Stern served as President and CEO of the Board of Trustees. Since 1995, the Foundation has been on