up to 80,000 families and individuals on the street, this appropriation legislation includes an increase in funding of $330 million for tenant-based vouchers and nearly $667 million for projected-based vouchers in order to renew all current Section 8 vouchers, so no one who has a tenant-based voucher will lose it. In addition, included within this amount is $30 million for 4,000 new, targeted vouchers for homeless veterans and for non-elderly people with disabilities.

Once again this year the President's budget proposed eliminating the HOPE VI program, the highly successful program that revitalizes distressed and obsolete public housing projects. Instead, by providing $120 million, $21 million over 2007, Congress has ensured that HOPE VI projects will continue to help transform and revitalize communities across the United States.

Finally, by allocating $64.5 billion to the Department of Transportation, H.R. 3074 will safeguard the regional needs of our Nation and invest in transit projects for urban areas to help commuters save time and money getting to work. The bill likewise rejects the President's deep cuts to AMTRAK, protecting our national passenger rail system, and it fully funds the highway and transit guarantees set in the SAFETEA–LU authorization bill.

With final passage of this bill today, we in the House of Representatives will be addressing the important challenges of keeping our Nation's transportation system safe and strong, ensuring that every American has adequate shelter, and doing so in a way that strengthens the economy.

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant contributions made by the Living Word Ministries International Church under the leadership of Bishop John Brannon to the Colorado Springs community. As they near their 4-year anniversary on August 27, 2007, I commend Bishop Brannon and his congregation for their courageous and tireless efforts to reach all of God's people and provide for them the skills to likewise teach others about the life-altering power of the Gospel.

As a non-denominational church, Living Word Ministries International, LWMI, is devoted to bridging the gaps that keep God's people separate and alienated from one another. Through scriptural study, comprehensive prayer, dynamic worship, and focused group ministries, LWMI has successfully created a body of believers capable of reaching the un-churched in the Colorado Springs region and beyond. Currently, Brannon's church is involved in missions in more than seven States and four foreign countries. This is truly a church without walls.

They also seek to provide a comfortable and functional location for the base of their ministries and their weekly church services. On July 22, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the dedication ceremony for their new church building. I was touched and impressed by the sincerity of their efforts to reach ever higher toward the glory of God.

Today, I offer my sincere congratulations to LWMI for all they have achieved since 2003 to the benefit of my constituents in Colorado Springs. I trust and pray that their ministry will only continue to expand in size and effectiveness over the years to come so that they may share their joy and passion with even more of our local and global community.

TRIBUTE TO AMHERST POLICE CHIEF JOHN J. MOSLOW, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected law enforcement officer who for more than 32 years steadfastly served and protected the people of Amherst, NY.

Amherst Police Chief John J. Moslow Jr. has led a life deeply committed to service, to justice, to making his community a better place. In charge of the region's largest suburban police force for 8 years, Chief Moslow rolled up countless accomplishments, winning awards for his law enforcement initiatives and accolades for his deft management of high-profile cases. But more than awards and accolades can attest, during his 32 years on the force Chief Moslow has earned the utmost respect of area leaders, local officials and his fellow officers. With his straightforward and effective leadership, Chief Moslow indeed has left the Amherst Police Department stronger than he found it.

Chief Moslow joined the department in 1975 shortly after serving his country in another capacity, as a soldier in the Vietnam War. After serving as patrolman for 6 years, Chief Moslow began his steady rise in the force when he was promoted to patrol lieutenant in 1981. Known for his discipline and professionalism, Chief Moslow was made captain starting in 1989, serving in several different capacities for 10 years before being promoted to chief in 1999.

During his tenure, Chief Moslow led the department through times of unprecedented challenges and met each one head on. Whether it was adapting to the new security realities of a post-September 11th world or responding to surprise snowstorms, Chief Moslow took decisive action and improved the performance of his department every step of the way. His long list of achievements include the department's increased community police presence, investments in new crime-fighting and life-saving technology, the implementation of a new community emergency notification system and the establishment of the Amherst Police Foundation. Also on Chief Moslow's watch, every murder case was solved, each murderer at large taken off the streets, each one brought to justice. As he goes on to serve as Chief of Security of the Eighth Judicial District, serving Western New York's courts, Chief Moslow's legacy in Amherst will certainly live on.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service for more than 32 years to the people of Amherst, NY, for his leadership, his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves, I ask this Honorable Body join me in honoring Chief John J. Moslow Jr.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ALLOWING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN CUBAN ENERGY EXPLORATION PROJECTS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to permit Americans and American companies to take part in exploring for and development of energy resources offshore of Cuba and other nearby countries.

The bill would make an exception to all laws, Executive Orders, and regulations that now prohibit exports to or imports from Cuba or transactions in property in which a Cuban national has an interest. This exception would apply to transactions necessary for the exploration for and development of hydrocarbon resources—such as petroleum or natural gas—from offshore areas under the control of Cuba or another foreign government that are contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States. The bill would also permit Americans to travel to, from, and within Cuba in connection with such exploration and development activities.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress I have supported efforts to relax some of the unduly restrictive laws and policies that prevent American companies from doing business in Cuba. The legislation I am introducing today would continue those efforts.

It responds to a U.S. Geological Survey report published last year that estimates some 4.6 billion barrels of oil and 9.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas could lie offshore from Cuba, in the North Cuba Basin.

Cuba's share of the Gulf of Mexico was established in 1977 through treaties with the United States and Mexico. So there is no dispute about the status of the area, and it is my understanding that Cuba has divided its offshore territory into 59 exploration blocs and opened them up to foreign companies in 1999. Already, several foreign companies have indicated interest in some of these blocs, including a Canadian firm as well as companies from China and Venezuela.

However, our trade embargo continues to prevent American companies from seeking similar opportunities. I think this makes no sense, and the bill I am introducing today would change that. Under the bill, the only restriction would be that any exploration or development by an American company offshore from Cuba would be subject to the same conditions for protection of fish, wildlife, and the environment as would be the case if the activities were carried out in the parts of the outer continental shelf under the control of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am not in favor of unlimited development of oil and gas wherever those resources may be found. In our country, I think some areas should remain off-limits to such activities, and that in some other areas it should be subject to restrictions to protect other resources and values. And if Congress

were called to make similar decisions about resources in areas controlled by Cuba I well might support similar restrictions for the offshore areas the government of Cuba has decided to make available for exploration and development.

But I think that once the government of Cuba has made that decision, our Government should not insist on preventing American companies from seeking the opportunity to take part in those activities—especially since the American energy industry is unrivalled for its technical expertise and its ability to meet the technical challenges involved. My legislation would allow them to seek that opportunity.

HONORING THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization committed to special needs children and their families. The Foundation's significant and enduring efforts, under the direction of the president, Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun, deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given so much of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children, an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs, including social, physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions; collects, purchases, and distributes clothing for children in need; provides presents to those children at holiday time or when hospitalized.

In cooperation with Bally's Fitness Centers, the Foundation has been able to establish physical fitness and therapy centers. It has also arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

On July 28, 2007, at the Sullivan County Community College in Lock Sheldrake, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation, under the honorary chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, will sponsor its 11th Summer ''Chazak-Strength'' Concert honoring and paying tribute to special and outstanding children and their families. The guests of honor will be the special and outstanding children, many of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. More than 40 organizations and schools serving the physically and mentally disabled children will be represented.

The Chazak Concert and the Moses and Aaron Foundation's other programs demonstrate a caring and compassionate concern for the quality and dignity of life of others and merit the appreciation of all who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I commend the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in our society.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JACOB S. SCHMUECKER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of SGT Jacob S. Schmuecker, an Atkinson, Nebraska, native who lost his life on July 21 in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Schmuecker, assigned to Nebraska's National Guard's 755th Chemical Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company, died when his military vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb.

This young man represented some of the best qualities of Nebraska, and our State mourns his loss.

Sergeant Schmuecker has been described as ''calm, cool, and collected''—a man who answered the call of duty and served honorably. His loss will be felt not only by the men in his unit, but in Nebraska where he leaves behind his wife and three young children.

My prayers and condolences go out to Sergeant Schmuecker's family and friends who feel the loss of this brave man. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 24, 2007, I was with the President in my district visiting our troops at Charleston Air Force Base. As such, I missed several votes related to the Transportation Housing Appropriations Bill. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 691, Mica Amendment, ''yes''; rollcall 692, Bachmann Amendment, ''no''; rollcall 693, Flake Amendment, ''no''; rollcall 694, Flake Amendment, ''no''; rollcall 695, Chabot Amendment, ''yes.''

Should you have any questions, please contact my Washington office.

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DAVIS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's most outstanding public servants, State Representative Mike Davis (R-Naples), who is retiring after an exceptional career.

Mike was first elected to the Florida Legislature in 2002, and from the first time I met him, I knew he'd be a great leader. Mike is one of the hardest-working people I know and his enthusiasm and passion for serving the community is inspiring. Mike's the type of elected official that all of us in public service strive to be—accessible, dedicated, and effective.

I've known Mike for over 5 years and had the opportunity to serve in the Florida Legislature with him. He is one of the most talented and committed representatives. He truly represents the ideals of our region and has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

Southwest Florida has experienced tremendous growth over the last several decades, and Mike understands the importance of ensuring that we have an infrastructure that can support this growth. As Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, Mike successfully fought to improve our regional transportation system, pushed for growth management solutions, and worked to ensure that our airports are safe and reliable. He's also worked to make housing more affordable for Floridians.

Of course, Mike's public service does not end with his stint in the Legislature. Mike's held countless positions on numerous civic and charitable organizations throughout Southwest Florida. He's the type of person who believes in giving back to his community tenfold and has done just that. From working with Boy Scout Troop 225, to serving as President of the Naples chapter of the Rotary Club, to volunteering with Hospice of Naples—he's left an indelible mark on your community.

I'd also like to recognize Mike's wife, Patricia, and his two children, Christian and Natasha, for their support during his public service—I know he couldn't have accomplished so much without their love and support.

Madam Speaker, Southwest Florida is better off today because of Mike Davis' tireless work. I wish Mike and his family all the best.

HONORING PASTOR CLARENCE SEXTON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, on August 26, many people from East Tennessee and others from around the Nation will join together to honor Dr. Clarence Sexton on his 40th anniversary in Christian ministry.

Clarence Sexton is one of the finest men I have ever known. Through his work, he has touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways.

He has a heart for service and has shown simple human kindness to countless numbers of people. This world is a better place and many have been saved because of the life Clarence Sexton has led.

The most successful people in the world try some projects that do not go well or even some that fail. But the most important thing is that they never stop trying.

Clarence Sexton is one of the most successful men I know. He is what I call a mover and a shaker, and he would have been a great success in almost anything to which he devoted his tremendous enthusiasm and work ethic.