educate, promote, and develop minority and women owned businesses by providing a variety of programs, services and business opportunities.

Mrs. Hatcher and the GTMBC routinely bring corporate and public interests together for the benefit of southeast Texas by providing a unique partnership in economic and community development. By consolidating the interests and resources of industries through advertisers and mentors and making them available to minority owned businesses, the GTMBC enlightens and strengthens local communities by preparing business leaders for competition in a global market. Through Mrs. Hatcher's leadership, the GTMBC was one of only 29 applicants in 1999 to receive an award from the U.S. Small Business Administration as Small Disadvantaged Business Private Certifier.

I applaud Mrs. Hatcher and the Golden Triangle Minority Business Council for working tirelessly on behalf of minority and women owned businesses. The knowledge and support that she provides to local businesses ensures that the entrepreneurial spirit will be nurtured, and tomorrow's business leaders will be prepared for global economic growth.

I applaud Mrs. Beverly Hatcher on her outstanding achievements. She has helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud her unwavering service and dedication to the community.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BILL OVERMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Overman, City Clerk of Rhodes, Iowa, for his distinguished public service and dedication to the Rhodes community on the occasion of his retirement from that position.

For the past 28 years, Bill has served as city clerk. A life-long resident of Rhodes, Bill previously served as mayor from 1970 until 1979 before taking over the clerk position. He also retired from Lennox in Marshalltown in 2005 as a lean materials analyst after working for 37 years. As city clerk, Bill has been the chief administrator of services with a strong understanding of the needs and desires of the community.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me to commend Bill Overman for his leadership and service to Rhodes, Iowa. I consider it an honor to serve Bill in Congress and I wish him the best in the future.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise, reluctantly, in favor of the motion to table House Resolution 799, Impeaching Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors, and in favor of referring that resolution to the House Judiciary Committee for full consideration. I voted to table this resolution not because I do not share the gentleman from Ohio's desire to hold those responsible for the Iraqi debacle accountable; but rather, because I strongly believe that we must follow established protocol in matters of such importance. During my entire time in Congress, I have been outspoken in my opposition to war with Iraq and Iran. I have warned my colleagues and the administration against marching toward war in numerous speeches over the years, and I have voted against every appropriation to continue the war on Iraq.

I have always been strongly in favor of vigorous congressional oversight of the executive branch, and I have lamented our abrogation of these Constitutional obligations in recent times. I do believe, however, that this legislation should proceed through the House of Representatives following regular order, which would require investigation and hearings in the House Judiciary Committee before the resolution proceeds to the floor for a vote. This time-tested manner of moving impeachment legislation may slow the process, but in the long run it preserves liberty by ensuring that the House thoroughly deliberates on such weighty matters. In past impeachments of high officials, including those of Presidents Nixon and Clinton, the legislation had always gone through the proper committee with full investigation and accompanying committee report.

I noted with some dismay that many of my colleagues who have long supported the war changed their vote to oppose tabling the motion for purely political reasons. That move was a disrespectful to the Constitutional function of this body and I could not support such actions with my vote.

I was pleased that the House did vote in favor of sending this legislation to the Judiciary Committee, which essentially directs the committee to examine the issue more closely than it has done to this point.

H.R. 3355, THE HOMEOWNERS' DEFENSE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I voted against H.R. 2255, which would create a Federally-backed national catastrophe risk consortium and provide below-market catastrophic loans to State reinsurance and insurance plans.

I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues from Florida to raise awareness about the increasing costs of natural disasters on their constituents and the insurance industry. This is made worse because the number of people who live in harm's way is expanding dramatically; some estimates say that 75 percent of Americans are at risk for some type of disaster. Climate change will only compound the problem with predictions of increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

However, at its core, this legislation continues the trend of disguising the risks associated with living in hazardous areas. The Federal Government is already facing a huge financial liability associated with the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on the National Flood Insurance Program. Yet we have refused to take steps to address the root causes of the problem: more development and more expensive development in harm's way. I am concerned that this bill will increase our liability, without requiring communities to take meaningful steps to reduce their own vulnerability to natural hazards. This bill could potentially dramatically expand Federal liability before we come to grips with the problems of the National Flood Insurance Program and our natural disaster policies. We can't afford to take this leap.

The Federal Government has a special opportunity and responsibility to help communities prepare for and prevent damages from natural disasters. Instead of making it easier to develop in these areas, we should be taking steps to reduce property damage and loss of life, save taxpayer dollars, and protect the environment. Mitigation works: recent studies have shown that 1 dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation saves 4 dollars in future disaster spending.

Until we deal meaningfully with prevention and mitigation, I must oppose this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''CIVIL WAR ARTIFACT AUTHENTICITY ACT''

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleague JOHN CULBERSON, are introducing the ''Civil War Artifact Authenticity Act'' that will curb the proliferation of fraudulent Civil War artifacts and memorabilia entering the legitimate market place.

Since the last shot fired in America's Civil War, countless numbers of people across the Nation have become fascinated with this monumental conflict. From the battlefields of Virginia and Louisiana's Red River to the hallowed ground of Antietam, Gettysburg, and thousands of other places that saw brother fighting brother, this war touched virtually every part of this country and every home and hearth. More than 600,000 combatants died from battle, disease, and imprisonment.

With the war's end, soldiers who fought in that conflict returned frequently, often with families in tow, to the places of the most stirring moments of their lives. They revered the fields on which they fought and established numerous associations, North and South, commemorating those who served. These veterans created strong links to their service and sacrifice, through their memoirs and other writings and the personal items and artifacts they carried on the battlefield and brought home to rest in conspicuous places on the mantles of their homes in recognition of the soldiers' service and sacrifice.

Over the ensuing decades, as the soldiers and families who owned and cared for these artifacts died away, many of these heirlooms began to scatter, particularly as later generations forgot the importance of these historic belongings, failed to care for them, or sold the items to augment their incomes.

With the arrival of the 100th anniversary of the Civil War, and the deaths of the last Union and Confederate soldier, respectively, in 1956 and 1961, people began to consider the importance of these relics, personal items, letters, diaries, and other memorabilia that the soldiers took home. Scholars and researchers, collectors, museum curators, and others who knew the historic importance of these artifacts have renewed the connections to the conflict and have sought to protect and preserve the Civil War's tangible heritage that the soldiers cherished. From the day the guns fell silent up until this moment, these artifacts and other memorabilia have helped us define and understand our Civil War.

The personal artifacts of the Civil War have spawned a large and growing interest in the Civil War. Probably more books and articles have been written about the war than any other era in our history. Researchers, writers, curators, and many average Americans have felt the need to own, study and preserve what that long-gone generation once owned. These artifacts which now populate the homes, shops, museums, schools and any number of other venues have great meaning for many of us today. As a result, entrepreneurs have opened commercial establishments to trade these relics in honest commercial enterprise.

The fascination with the Civil War has grown a new generation of sellers and collectors. Original artifacts and memorabilia have skyrocketed in value among collectors and others. A ''belt plate,'' which most people know as a buckle, sold for $5 in 1960, and now cost as much as $200 to a $1000 depending on the particular item. Sadly, unscrupulous people have opened new markets in fraudulent items that never saw the Civil War.

As a result, the entry of fake items into the market for relics and artifacts not only cheats people financially, but also disrupts historical scholarship and the legitimate display in museums and other venues. Internet trade makes it easier for people to sell fake items to unschooled and unwary buyers because the con artists are unknown, many working overseas to flood the market with costly junk. To protect the true artifacts of the Civil War era, I propose new legislation designed to interfere with the manufacture and sale of fraudulent items, and increasing the awareness among sellers and buyers of the large trade in these fake items.

Our bill would add a second title to existing Federal law, the ''Hobby Protection Act,'' which requires that fake political items and memorabilia, and numismatic items must have the words ''copy'' or ''facsimile'' clearly stamped on them to ensure that they are recognized as replicas or non-authentic items. Because original Civil War artifacts and memorabilia are highly prized and can reach into the thousands of dollars depending on the particular item, those determined to make a dishonest dollar, can easily replicate an original item, or worse, produce an item that is a pure fantasy piece—an artifact that never existed during the Civil War.

While this legislation will not end the trafficking in fake Civil War items, it will provide sanctions through the Federal Trade Commission for manufacturers who purport to offer authentic Civil War relics and artifacts, when they are in fact fake junk.

This legislation is essential if we want to ensure these artifacts and memorabilia of the Civil War era retain their historic importance for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to support the ''Civil War Artifact Authenticity Act.''

CONGRATULATING EUGENE FELIX CERVANTES 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and extend my congratulations to Eugene Felix Cervantes and his family on the occasion of his 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on November 10, 2007 at the California Mission Inn in Rosemead, California.

Mr. Cervantes is an example of one of the many Americans that have brought about the profound change that make this country what it is today. Starting a successful business, serving as a private civilian employee of the U.S. Navy, membership in community and business organizations, and a sincere appreciation for the natural wonders of our State are all parts of a life that serves as a definitive example of the American dream.

Born on November 15, 1907 in San Gabriel, California, Mr. Cervantes has many grand achievements to look back upon. In the early 1930s, Mr. Cervantes received his pilot's license. He went on to own two aircrafts and part of an airport. When the depression of the 1930s hit hard, he kept his head up and enrolled in night classes, teaching himself engineering. Though he never received an official degree in engineering, he was truly a self-taught engineer.

In 1934, Mr. Cervantes married Mary Loya and had two sons, Richard and Donald. The young family moved to Mare Island in Vallejo, California, where Mr. Cervantes worked for the U.S. Navy at the naval submarine base. There, he did a great deal of work with ship board ventilation. His engineering background soon made him stand out, and he rose to the head of the department.

The early 1930s were a peaceful time for the family, with plenty of recreation opportunities on the base. However, war clouds were looming on the horizon in Europe, and chaos broke loose with the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Mr. Cervantes moved his family back to Alhambra, California to take a job with Bethlehem Steel's Ship Building Division as an engineer in charge of on-board ventilation at the company's design facility at the Port of San Pedro. He was divorced and married his second wife, his beloved of 62 years, Betty Helgeson from Brainerd, Minnesota.

At the end of World War II, Mr. Cervantes put everything on the line to pursue the American dream of owning a business. The sheet metal company that he started in Compton, California in 1945 grew to handle some of the largest mechanical projects in the State. It was incorporated in 1962 and moved to Orange County, where it became known as Air Conditioning Systems, Inc. In 1985, the company was awarded a contract to design and build a portable ground support air conditioning unit for the Space Shuttle. The company went on to design and fabricate many highly specialized air conditioning systems, including B1 ground support, NAVSTAR Tracking Van, and Space Shuttle Assembly Building. In national recognition, the company was presented the Administrators Award for Excellence by the Small Business Administration.

Throughout his life, Mr. Cervantes remained an avid golfer and a dedicated member of the Rio Honda Country Club. He played into his 92nd Birthday and shot his age on several occasions. He held membership in many clubs and community and business organizations. When he fully retired in 1987, he moved to his new home at Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside, California.

Mr. Cervantes' love for the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains, involvement in the community, and passion for helping people who were ''down on their luck'' are just a few of the things that have made his life so special. In 100 years, he has gone from horse and buggy to space exploration. Few people are blessed with such an exciting and extraordinary life. Mr. Cervantes is truly a great American, Californian, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Eugene Felix Cervantes today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live such a full life as he has. He is a great man and his family and friends are very proud of all of these achievements.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER HOLLAND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Luther Holland of the McCallsburg Lions Club for his longtime service to the International Lions Club.

Luther has been named a Melvin Jones Fellow, which is one of the highest forms of recognition conferred by the Lions Clubs International Federation. The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

Luther was nominated because of his tireless dedication to improving his community. He has always attended and volunteered for community dinners and given his time for many fundraisers. He is a great example for this community, and I commend him on his enduring commitment.

I consider it an honor to represent Luther Holland in Congress, and I wish him the very best in his continued voluntary service.

INTRODUCTION OF HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND TAX EXEMPTION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on April 16, 2007, the tranquil campus of Virginia Tech, and the Town of Blacksburg, was shattered by the actions of a lone gunman. The