

To facilitate that goal, the Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act it is designed to be technology neutral, making delivery of service, not the delivery medium, the factor for eligibility. This will ensure that this tax incentive does not inhibit competition among broadband providers, thereby maximizing choice for consumers. Any broadband provider meeting the required speeds, measured in megabits of data delivered to and from the consumer per second, is eligible, whether such service is provided over telephone wire, cable modem, optical fiber, wireless, satellite, or other forms of technology.

It is past time that Congress took action to ensure that all Americans have access to broadband communications technology. The Broadband Deployment Acceleration Act is a practical and effective mechanism that will help provide our constituents access to this important technology. I hope that my colleagues will support this legislation to bolster the innovation and competitiveness of this Nation.

#### REMEMBERING THE 1947 TEXAS CITY DISASTER

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, in recognition of the sixtieth anniversary of the explosion of the *Grand Camp* ship in the Texas City harbor on April 16, residents of Texas City, in my congressional district, will come together to honor those who lost their lives in the 1947 explosions. I am honored to join my constituents in commemorating those who lost their lives in this tragedy.

Early in the morning of April 16, 1947 the *Grand Camp* caught fire. As the fire combined with the ammonium nitrate on the *Grand Camp*, a bright orange flame lit up the sky and smoke soared an estimated 2,000 feet into the air. Within seconds of the explosion, the Monsanto Chemical Plant was in flames. The fire spread quickly to the refineries that made up the Texas City industrial complex, causing entire buildings to collapse.

The destruction was not limited to Texas City. Windows rattled in Baytown, while a mist of black oil reigned in the city of Galveston. The tragedy and destruction did not end there. A miniature tidal wave resulted when the water from the bay, which had been driven out by the explosion, rushed in over the docks and rushed 150 feet inland, subsuming everything within its path. By nightfall, rescue workers were still searching for those trapped in the wreckage. But the devastation would continue.

At 1:10 a.m., another ship, the *High Flyer*, which was loaded with ammonium nitrate and sulfur, exploded. This explosion destroyed another ship, the *Wilson B. Keene*, as well as a concrete warehouse and a grain elevator.

A week passed before all of the fires were extinguished, and a month passed before the last body was pulled from the rubble—although some bodies were never recovered. Approximately 600 people lost their lives because of this tragedy. Almost every member of the Texas City fire department gave his life fighting the first explosion. Plant workers, dock

workers, and bystanders were among the other victims. Perhaps most tragic of all, the flames claimed the lives of several children.

A memorial cemetery now sits near Loop 197 in Texas City as a silent reminder of the 63 unidentified dead who are buried in numbered graves. In 1980, a memorial park was created to honor the others who died in the tragedy.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to join my constituents in paying my respects to those who lost their lives in the 1947 explosion of the *Grand Camp* in Texas City.

#### HONORING KEN HOUSE

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, there have been many giants in the transportation history of this Nation.

During his time as a Postmaster General, which included service both before and after American independence, Ben Franklin surveyed, rerouted, and marked post roads in the 18th century. In the 19th century, great companies with names like Baltimore and Ohio, Union Pacific, and Burlington Northern networked a growing industrial America from coast-to-coast with railroads. DeWitt Clinton helped bring the Erie Canal into existence. In the 20th century, new transportation visionaries like the Wright brothers led the Nation to unprecedented mobility and economic growth.

Many transportation experts have toiled quietly behind the scenes in the 230 years of the United States to maintain and build on these legacies and utter necessities of American prosperity.

Kenneth House, of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff, has been one of those individuals for more than a quarter century. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to and gratitude for Ken House's service to this great institution and the American people.

Ironically, Ken House is indeed a giant physically. At 6 feet 5 inches tall, Ken's first success was not on the roads but on the courts. His high school basketball prowess in Baltimore led to a scholarship and distinction at New Jersey's Seton Hall University. How good was Ken back then? Decades later, Ken remains Seton Hall's third-highest rebounder and its ninth-highest basketball player in points scored.

While in graduate school, Ken worked as assistant basketball coach at Seton Hall. He continued coaching and mentoring young people even after he completed his master's degree. Had he chosen to turn pro, NBA history might have been changed as transportation history certainly was transformed—and for the better—with Ken's help.

In 1977, Ken worked on the National Transportation Policy Study Commission to examine the transportation needs in the United States. The Commission had been created in the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1976. After the Commission's report was submitted to Congress in 1979, Ken went to work in the Carter Administration. Ken was a congressional relations officer for the Department of Transportation,

DOT, advocating the President's transportation policies and responding to congressional inquiries—such as mine—about those policies and other DOT programs.

In 1981, Ken came to the House of Representatives and began his long professional career in what was the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation. He is now recognized by his colleagues in the transportation field as an encyclopedia of knowledge on transportation issues.

Ken is warmly regarded by all as a professional in every sense. Soft-spoken and always approachable, Ken is a walking storehouse of transportation history, programs, principles, and impacts. It is virtually impossible to ask him a question on any highway or transit issue to which he will fail to provide an objective, well-reasoned, and insightful answer. His only agenda: public service.

After three decades of public service in both the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government, Ken has retired. Many tried to change his mind, but his decision was as all others: well-reasoned. As was true on the basketball court for Seton Hall, for Ken, it was simply time to pass the ball to a colleague.

Thus, Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today, but I do so gladly. I do so to recognize a rare individual among us. The long, selfless, dedicated, and faithful service of Ken House to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to the House of Representatives, and to the United States, has been replete with countless sacrifices during his distinguished career. It is now our turn for the sacrifice as we miss his counsel and friendship. All of us in the transportation community wish Ken and his family all the best in the years ahead.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLARK HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clark High School for being recognized as one of the nation's premier high schools for its Advanced Placement courses.

Clark High School was recently honored as a recipient of the 2006–2007 Siemens Foundation Award for Advanced Placement, making Clark High School one of only 50 high schools nationwide to receive this recognition. The Siemens Awards were established in 1998 to strengthen the quality of math, science and technology aptitude within our nation's schools and to identify the partnership between the Siemens Foundation and the College Board. Clark High School was chosen as one of this year's recipients for its commitment to their students and the school's leadership in Advanced Placement participation and performance.

Edward W. Clark High School opened its doors to Las Vegas students in the fall of 1965 with the Space Age student in mind. The Clark County School Board designed and constructed the building to provide each student with the right type of atmosphere for learning. The school's mission statement focuses on

the preparation of each student to pursue life-long learning. In the Curriculum and Professional Development Division of the Clark County School District, Clark High School is one of nine high schools in the district to offer magnet programs to its students which include The Academy for Mathematics, Science, Applied Technology; The Academy of Finance; and The Teacher Education Academy at Clark High.

The school's highly deserved recognition is for the admirable job the faculty of Clark High School, specifically those involved in the Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology Magnet Program, for their hard work in strengthening the math, science and technology education in their Advanced Placement classes. The faculty at Clark High School has truly done an exemplary job in preparing its students for the high tech workplace in today's global economy. For the incredible commitment they have made to the success of Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology Magnet Program, I would like to commend the following individuals: Shirley McLees, Sidney Lupu, Erin Buchner, Gabriele Ward, Nicholas Bean, Aaron Dehne, Brian Blank, Rosa Leathers, Cynthia McCoy, Nadine Gary, Donna Gonzalez, Manami Mata, Phil Bombino, Ron Jederberg, Jeff Lacoff, Brian Kahre, Leslie McNamara, and Roger West.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Academy of Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology Magnet Program and the Advanced Placement teachers at Clark High School. Their recognition by the Siemens Foundation is truly honorable and is a direct result of the dedicated and expert faculty of the Program. I applaud their success and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

#### U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 23, 2007*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this supplemental funding bill which will for the first time assert the will of Congress and the American people to change the President's failed plan of "Stay the Course." For far too long, the President has ignored the will of the American public. In passing this bill, we will send a message to the President that this is no longer acceptable.

This legislation includes meaningful benchmarks and deadlines that provide the Iraqis with incentives to take responsibility for their own security and makes way for the return of our troops. The bill also requires the Iraqi government to take meaningful steps towards national reconciliation by distributing oil revenues fairly, providing opportunities to the Sunni minority, and amending the constitution to discourage further fragmentation.

We can no longer afford to give the President a blank check for the war in Iraq. There are thousands of brave men and women deployed overseas in harm's way right now who are depending on us. We need to put Iraqis up front, so that we can remove Americans

from the front lines. This legislation will encourage the Iraqis to stand up and be accountable for the security of their country. I urge my colleagues to support this emergency supplemental funding bill.

#### HONORING THOMAS BOGGS

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Boggs, the CEO of Huey's, Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee. Huey's Restaurant is a Memphis fixture, which has been serving blues, brews and burgers to its regulars for over 35 years with great service and better people. Since 1970, Huey's has grown from a favorite local hangout in Midtown Memphis to become a highly successful family-run restaurant and bar, with locations across Greater Memphis.

Mr. Boggs began his career in music, yet another example of the rich culture of Memphis, first playing for Tommy Burk and the Counts and Flash and the Board of Directors, before joining the blue-eyed, soul group the Box Tops as drummer. The Box Tops were best known for their hits "The Letter," "Cry Like a Baby" and "Soul Deep," songs which are permanent parts of the rock and soul landscape.

Later, married with children, Thomas finished his history degree while waiting tables at T.G.I. Friday's. A business "natural", Thomas Boggs quickly moved up to Friday's corporate offices in Dallas. But the pull of his beloved Memphis was strong. Not long after returning, he moved into management at Huey's bar and, using his restaurant expertise, expanded the enterprise into a restaurant and, eventually, to seven locations.

Since Mr. Boggs came on board in 1975, Huey's has flourished. It is currently in its 22nd year as the "Best Burger" in Memphis, according to an annual ranking by Memphis Magazine. Mr. Boggs has won the highest award given by the 400 members of the Memphis Restaurant Association and the Newt Hardin Award, given for outstanding service to the restaurant industry. He also received the Jefferson Award in 2002, which is given by the American Institute for Public Service in recognition for outstanding community and public service.

Thomas Boggs has been a true public servant in Memphis, continually giving of himself to the community. He has served on the Memphis Zoo Board, the Aloysius Home board, and as chairman of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau. He served as Food and Beverage co-chair of the Blues Ball, and has served as both Vice-President and President of Memphis in May. He was president of the Memphis Restaurant Association as well as the President of the Advisory Board of the Food Bank and has been an active participant of Leadership Memphis. 2007 marks the 18th Earthquake Open, Huey's annual golf tournament which was created and is hosted by Thomas Boggs and which benefits the Memphis Zoo.

Thomas Boggs is the kind of citizen who makes us all proud. He gives his time, his energy and his heart to make his community a

better place to live. He is a credit both to his profession and his city. I'm proud to call Thomas Boggs my friend and pleased to honor him today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOTTIE WHITAKER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Dottie Whitaker for her remarkable dedication to ending prescription narcotic abuse.

Dottie began her activism as a result of the tragic and untimely death of her beloved daughter, Tammie Armato. Tammie passed away on September 14, 2005, from an accidental prescription drug overdose. Tammie became addicted to prescription pain medication while being treated by a doctor for injuries she sustained in a car accident in 1995. The doctor she had been seeing at the time of her death was unfamiliar with Tammie's health history and gave her a large prescription of two different pain medications.

After Tammie's death, Dottie learned that prescription drug overdose is a nationwide epidemic. Three out of every five individuals who attend drug rehabilitation do so for prescription drug abuse. Additionally, more people die each year as a result of prescription drug overdoses than as a result of illegal drug overdoses. Inspired to do all she could to prevent others from experiencing the terrible loss that she has suffered, Dottie created Project Tammie. Project Tammie is an organization dedicated to combating accidental prescription narcotic overdose.

In an effort to save lives and prevent other individuals and families from suffering the effects of prescription drug addiction, Dottie has become a passionate advocate for a nationwide Prescription Monitoring Program. This program will allow doctors and practitioners to become familiar with a patient's prescription drug history, other prescribing physicians, pharmacies and pertinent information before prescribing narcotics. A number of states have already established statewide Prescription Monitoring Programs, but Dottie believes the only way to truly prevent prescription drug abuse and overdoses is to establish a nationwide program. Through Project Tammie, Dottie has worked tirelessly to create awareness and gain support for legislation that would require all states to set up Prescription Monitoring Programs. Dottie's hope is that this program would not only prevent patients from "doctor shopping," but would also help practitioners recognize addiction and help patients seek treatment.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dottie Whitaker for her efforts in organizing Project Tammie. In the face of a heartbreaking loss, she has chosen to make a difference and find a solution that will help others. She is an inspiring example of strength, courage and selflessness. Her dedication and tireless activism is truly commendable. I applaud her outstanding commitment to this important issue and wish her the best in her future endeavors.