was the first, and thus far, the only woman director to serve on the Board of Western United Dairymen Association. She has also served as secretary of Dairy Management Inc., and as director of Dairy Council of California from 1992–2004. Mary is presently on the board of directors for the Kings County Farm Bureau. Her awards include Kings County 2001 Agriculturalist of the year, the 2003 Woman of Distinction award by Soroptomist International of Hanford, CA and the 2003 Common Threads Honoree by California State University of Fresno.

Mary is truly a remarkable woman; always persistent, always engaged. Mary is definitely the sort of advocate that the dairy industry needs on its side. So I congratulate Mary Atsma-Cameron today on the receipt of this distinguished honor and to commend her before you, my colleagues, for her on-going contributions the dairy industry of California, indeed, the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOTTIE FOX

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness by the passing away of such a wonderful, spiritual, gentle, native Mississippian, Mrs. Lottie Fox. Mrs. Fox just celebrated, remarkably, her 104th birthday on Thursday, February 5, 2009. She was the oldest of fifteen siblings.

Lottie was dutiful and diligent and contributed tirelessly as an agricultural farmer to her native Calhoun County community for several years. Upon her retirement from farming, she made Water Valley, Mississippi, her home for over 30 years.

Lottie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother. She is survived by her daughters, Opeal Trice; Ella Harris; Army Woodward; Bernice Minor; Molly Simmons; Dolly Fant; Catherine Brown; Rudy Swift; her son, Willie Fox and Step-daughters; Ella Coleman and Lela Doolittle. Lottie is also survived by 47 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great grandchildren. Lottie was also a proud and devout member of Everdale Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I along with the citizens of both Yalobusha and Calhoun County, sadly mourn the death of such an inspirational Mississippian, as the 104 year old, Mrs. Lottie Fox. I want to personally thank her for her contributions. Her memory will live on.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GILBERT ROBERT CRAFT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Citronelle and the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Gilbert Robert Craft and pay tribute to his memory.

Known to his many friends as ''Bobby,'' he was a lifelong resident of Citronelle. He graduated from Citronelle High School and Spring Hill College. He also served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of captain.

Bobby began his career in public service in 1968 when he was elected to the Citronelle Town Council. In 1970, he was appointed to Citronelle's Utility Board, which later became South Alabama Utilities. He served as chairman from 1972 until 1984 when he was named executive director, a position he held for more than 39 years. Under Bobby's leadership, the local utility company encompassing one municipality grew to become one of the most respected utilities in the South, expanding into Semmes, west Mobile County, and at one time, southern Mobile County.

In honor of his service and unwavering devotion to his city, Bobby was twice named Citronelle's Citizen of the Year. He was the owner of two companies, Craft Auto Parts and Craft Oil Company, and was a devoted member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church where he was a member for more than 70 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Gilbert Robert Craft will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Patricia; his children, Gilbert Robert Craft Jr. and his wife Deena, Patricia D'Nette Fagan, and Matthew Reed Craft and his wife Kirsten; his five grandchildren, Tiffani Marie Craft, Joshua Robert Craft, Blakely Danelle Fagan, Reed Alexander Craft, and Raleigh Connell Craft; and his three brothers, Joseph P. Craft, James B. Craft, and William M. Craft—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX RELIEF FOR TRANSPORTATION WORKERS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Tax Relief for Transportation Workers Act. This legislation helps those who work in the port industry cope with the costs of complying with Congress's mandate that all those working on a port obtain a Transportation Worker Identity Card, TWIC. The Tax Relief for Transportation Workers Act provides a tax credit to workers who pay the costs of obtaining TWICs. The credit is refundable against both income and payroll tax liabilities.

When Congress created the TWIC requirement, it placed the burden of paying the cost of obtaining the card on individual workers. Imposing the costs of obtaining TWICs on port workers has several negative economic impacts that Congress should help mitigate by making the cost associated with obtaining a TWIC tax deductible. According to the Department of Homeland Security, a port worker will have to pay between $100 and $132 to obtain a card. The worker will also have to pay a $60 fee for every card that is lost or damaged. Even those employers whose employers pay the substantial costs of obtaining TWICs for their workforce are adversely affected by the TWIC requirement, as the money employers pay for TWICs is money that cannot go into increasing their workers' salaries. The costs of the TWIC requirement may also cause some employers to refrain from hiring new employees.

Ironically, many of the employees whose employers are unable to pay the TWIC are part-time or temporary workers at the lower end of the income scale. Obviously, the TWIC requirement hits these workers the hardest. According to Recana, an employer of port workers in my district, the fee will have a ''significant impact'' on port workers.

Unless Congress acts to relieve some of the economic burden the TWIC requirement places on those who work in the port industry, the damage done could reach beyond the port employers and employees to harm businesses that depend on a strong American port industry. This could be very harmful to both interstate and international trade.

Regardless of what one thinks of the merits of the TWIC card, it is simply not right for Congress to make the port industry bear all the costs of TWIC. I therefore urge my colleagues to stand up for those who perform vital tasks at America's ports by cosponsoring the Tax Relief for Transportation Workers Act.

CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO WHITE HOUSE POLITICIZATION OF THE CENSUS BUREAU

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, yesterday we learned of two important developments as the White House plans to grab control of the day-to-day management of the U.S. Census Bureau: (1) The U.S. Senate's chief committee on government oversight scheduled its first hearing of the year to investigate the matter; (2) Senator GREGG withdrew his name for the consideration of the Commerce Secretary position, citing ''irreconcilable difference'' with the President on the future of the U.S. Census.

These developments solidify what we already know: a political grab of the Census will jeopardize the non-partisan operations of the Bureau, and potentially disrupt the completion of a competent, reliable census.

My Republican colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously joined my call for an oversight hearing in the House. The Senate has heard our call. What do House Democrats have to hide? Americans deserve a non-partisan and accurate census, not one driven by partisan politics. Let's hold a hearing and ensure that we give them that.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDING OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to acknowledge the

99th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. This organization, which was incorporated on February 8th, 1910, under the laws of the District of Columbia, has long been the largest youth organization in the nation and has done well in producing responsible citizens of strong character.

The Boy Scouts of America was rapid in its initial growth; only two years after its founding, Boy Scout troops were established in every state. Time and time again the Boy Scouts of America has proven its commitment to our nation, with initiatives such as, ''Every Scout Feed a Soldier'' and ''A Good Turn for America''. The past 99 years have seen more than 112 million youth bear the traditions of excellence rooted in the history of the Boy Scouts of America.

In the Chicagoland Area, Scouting is as prevalent of a force as it has always been. Currently, nearly 10,000 youth are actively involved in the Scouting program of our local council. In addition, through the Chicago Area Council's involvement in Learning for Life Programs, over 35,000 additional youth are immersed as well in the principles of scouting. Combining the two programs, nearly one in every seven youth in Chicago is in someway involved in the Scouting program.

I am sure that the spirit of Scouting is present in this very body, as it has been in the past. A survey conducted by the Boy Scouts of America revealed that nearly 60 percent of the membership of the 110th Congress had at some point participated in Scouting.

I am grateful that the twin pillars of the Scout Oath and Scout Law have served to shape the character of both young men and women of all ages, colors, codes, and creeds. With the continued contributions of the Boy Scouts of America and organizations like it, we can be sure that our youth are developing into good citizens.

IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, over the past eight years, American consumer safety has taken a back seat to the special interests. As a result, many Americans have been exposed to dangerous toys for their children, hazardous household products for their families and even contaminated food, resulting in illness. Now is the time to support consumer advocates across the country by encouraging the new administration to restore the White House Office of Consumer Affairs.

Our country gave the government a clear mandate for change in November. Without question, a new focus on consumer safety should be part of this change. Under President Clinton, consumers had an effective advocate with a long record of commitment to protecting consumers in Ann Brown, former Chairwoman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Unfortunately, staff cutbacks suffered by the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission have undermined effective efforts to protect consumers.

While bipartisan legislation has attempted to address these challenges, it is clear that more progress is required. We must act now. Americans should have confidence that the products they use are safe and will not pose any dangers to them or their families. The new Administration can make significant progress toward this goal by restoring the Office of Consumer Affairs to its rightful place in the Executive Branch. I strongly encourage President Obama's administration to do so, and I echo the New York Times and their call to action.

The editorial follows.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 4, 2009]

A VOICE FOR THE CONSUMER

The time has come to give the American consumer a much stronger voice in Washington. President-elect Barack Obama has already named what amounts to an energy and environmental czar in the White House, and America's beleaguered consumers deserve no less.

Mr. Obama should restore the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, which vanished during the Clinton years, and appoint a director who has both the president's ear and the authority to rebuild the consumer protection agencies that were undercut or hollowed out by the fiercely anti-regulatory Bush administration.

There is no shortage of agencies ostensibly designed to protect consumers. But without an emergency like killer spinach or lead in children's toys, the Bush administration has mostly failed to hear customers' complaints. The consumer safety net is simply far too weak.

The Food and Drug Administration has suffered cutbacks in expert personnel, and still relies too heavily on industry to police itself. Credit-card holders who have been subject to all kinds of Dickensian tricks and traps were finally told by the Federal Reserve that relief is in sight—in 2011. Not so long ago, there was only one official toy tester at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and oversight generally was so weak that Congress was forced to step in with new protections, which still could be strengthened.

It will be up to the Obama administration to bring these agencies back to life. In part this means restoring the morale of government workers who have too often been stymied by the anti-regulators at the top. It will also mean stronger consumer protection policies and hiring more skilled people. It will mean giving one official responsibility for coordinating the entire apparatus.

Presidents Johnson and Carter both recognized the need for a strong person to do that job. Both chose Esther Peterson, who during about eight years in office pushed for then-radical ideas like nutritional labeling on food and truth in advertising. As the Reagan anti-government era began, the consumer protection job steadily lost clout until it was shuttered in the late 1990s.

During his campaign, Mr. Obama promised consumers that he would help them get a fairer deal. As the victims of lead toys and predatory lenders can attest, they certainly need one. Restoring the Office of Consumer Affairs and appointing a director as strong and capable as Mrs. Peterson would be an encouraging first step.

LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR LONG-TERM CARE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, with an ever aging population, most families at one point or another are forced to make a decision regarding the future of a loved one who needs assistance with everyday living. These decisions are made upon few available options and are very costly- many find themselves struggling between the high price of nursing homes or informal family care. The financial and emotional burden on families is vast and action such as the ''Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2009'' must be taken.

Long-term care is a variety of services that includes medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic disability or illness. This form of care may be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living or in nursing homes. While long-term care is often used for the elderly, it is important to remember that it could be needed at any age.

It is important to note that families who choose to care for their loved ones are left responsible for otherwise costly services because Medicare does not pay for long-term care. Adult children or grandchildren are cited as the main care givers to the elderly population. According to research conducted by the American Association of Retired People (AARP), two-thirds of older people with disabilities relied solely on ''informal'' help; approximately 75% of which was unpaid care from friends and family. The AARP Public Policy Institute reported that the annual economic value of unpaid long-term care in the United States is approximately $354 billion, based upon an estimation that 34 million adults provided some type of long-term care in 2006.

It is time to address the growing needs of our aging population and motivate younger generations to take the necessary steps toward insuring their long-term care needs. For this reason, I have reintroduced the Long-term Care and Retirement Security Act, H.R. 897.

This legislation would encourage individuals to plan for their own long-term care needs by amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax deduction for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for a taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents. This legislation would also establish an applicable tax credit for eligible caregivers caring for individuals with long-term care needs, multiplied by the number of individuals receiving care. The Long-term Care and Retirement Security Act would also permit long-term care insurance to be included in employee benefit cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, resulting in more active employees participating in long-term care policies. Finally, this long overdue measure would establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

It is my hope that this legislation will encourage more Americans to take personal responsibility for their long-term care needs through these incentives and help families afford long-term care insurance.