

well being of her family and service to others framed her entire life. She taught her children by example, reflecting the vital gifts of family unity, reaching out to those in need, hard work and an endless joy for learning and living. Ms. Lehmann's intellectual level was reflected in her numerous and varied life interests. After her children were grown, she enrolled in college, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average and an associate's degree. Her compassionate heart directed her onto pathways where she gave freely of her time and talent. Ms. Lehmann volunteered at Hillcrest Hospital, worked with special needs children at Millridge Elementary School, read to visually impaired children and volunteered in the gift shop at Cleveland Play House.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mary Lehmann. Her limitless spirit of giving and endless joy for life has had a profound impact upon the lives of her family, friends and the children and adults whom she so graciously served. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, David, Joan, John and Carol; to her daughters and sons-in-law, Kim, Roger, Melissa and Gil; to her grandchildren, Michael, Jennifer, Eric, Reid, Brittany, Ashley, Jonathon, Gilbert, Elena, Eva, Andrea, Lily and the memory of David; to her companion, Dr. Oscar Stadtler; and to her many extended family members and friends. The kindness, energy, joy and love that defined Mary Lehmann's life will live forever in the hearts of her family and within every soul she touched during her journey here—and she will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EUGENE
JOSEPH MCCARTHY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy, a former member of this body, who passed away on December 10th. Senator McCarthy's home state of Minnesota mourns his passing as a resolute, dedicated public servant, and a national man of conscience.

Eugene McCarthy began his lifelong commitment to learning and teaching at various educational institutions in Minnesota. As a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, he served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District from 1949 until 1959, when he began serving the first of two terms in the U.S. Senate. By taking a principled stand against the Vietnam War as a presidential candidate in 1968, he reached out to a disenfranchised generation, inspiring the youth of America to take part in the political process. After failing to receive the Democratic Party's nomination for president, Senator McCarthy continued to serve in the U.S. Senate until 1971 as he continued his dedication to the people of Minnesota and the American public.

His connection to the people he represented was genuine. Senator McCarthy's family and the people of Minnesota can be proud of the legacy that he leaves behind. I am honored to continue to represent many of the same people he served in Congress.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to his daughter Ellen, who continues her father's legacy of public service as a staff person in the U.S. House, as well as his daughter Margaret, his son Michael, his brother Austin, his sister Marian and his six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Senator Eugene McCarthy.

COMMENDING PRC COMPASSION'S
EXTENSIVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN
THE WAKE OF HURRICANES
KATRINA AND RITA

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my unique privilege today to have the rare opportunity to recognize and honor a truly great organization, the Pastor's Resource Council (PRC), and the work of the PRC Compassion. Formed several years ago, the PRC comprises of a coalition of churches and pastors who united together in order to provide relief to the community whenever necessary. For the past several years, the PRC has been playing an indispensable role in serving communities affected by the ravages of natural disasters whether it was through providing shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, or offering spiritual comfort and guidance to those who needed it among a myriad of other services. True to its name, the PRC has always been there for the people of Louisiana to lend a compassionate, helping hand in the most difficult of times.

The tragedy inflicted upon us by the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was certainly no exception. As Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc and destruction over the peoples of the state of Louisiana, PRC once again answered the call of duty and courageous pastors, priests, and other ministers, united in the cause of humanity and service, promptly organized on September 1, 2005 as "PRC Compassion" to provide immediate response to the disasters through compassion and inspiring hope. According to its mission, PRC Compassion coordinates national, state, and local faith and community-based organizations to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people impacted by Hurricane Katrina. PRC Compassion has worked tirelessly and selflessly to assist those disaster stricken communities in a number of different capacities. The organization's accomplishments in the face of such adversity cannot be overstated: 1,801,200 people served; 253,260 volunteer hours logged; 17,220 tons of food, water and supplies distributed; 11,480 evacuees sheltered; 10,152 volunteers deployed; 4,500 medical encounters facilitated; 676 trained counselors and chaplains mobilized; 250 faith based organizations involved; 84 faith based shelters established; and 16 stress management teams deployed. The organization continues to assist the community today.

While words cannot adequately encapsulate the gratitude and debt the people of Louisiana and the rest of the country owe to this incredible organization, we can pay tribute to the heroic men and women of PRC Compassion by formally recognizing and acknowledging the caliber and breadth of their service to the people of Louisiana. It is for that reason I am

pleased to recognize and commend the heroic, timely, and selfless actions and prayers of the faith community, particularly the actions and prayers of PRC Compassion, in providing assistance and support to the citizens of Louisiana who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While each and every member of PRC Compassion deserves this commendation, I must also recognize the able leadership of the PRC Compassion's Board of Directors, namely Pastor Larry Stockstill of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, LA; Pastor Fred Luter of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA; Pastor Jacob Aranza of Our Savior's Church in Lafayette, LA; Pastor Steve Robinson of Church of the King in Mandeville, LA; Pastor Dennis Watson of Celebration Church in New Orleans, LA; Apostle Willie Wooten of Gideon Christian Fellowship in New Orleans, LA; Dr. Jere Melilli of Christian Life Fellowship in Baton Rouge, LA; and Pastor Dino Rizzo of Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be able to recognize and commend PRC Compassion, who went well above and beyond the call of duty in assisting the peoples of Louisiana during their hour of need.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND
HEALTH ACT OF 2006

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of January 19, a fire erupted on a conveyor belt at the Aracoma, Alma Number 1 coal mine, in Melville, West Virginia. Black smoke began rolling through that mine. Nineteen miners escaped. Two were missing. It was the beginning of another episode in our recurring nightmare.

West Virginians were still veiled in grief. Still trying to make sense of the loss of 12 miners, taken from us just 17 days before, at the Sago coal mine, in Upshur County. Then it started again.

Media had flooded into Sago. They had covered the waiting, the watching, the praying, and the mourning. Now they were streaming back into West Virginia. And with them, the world was drawn to another coal mining town, this time in Logan County, to witness yet another mine tragedy unfolding.

I stayed with the families, gathered at the Bright Star Freewill Baptist Church. We held hands. We prayed. We believed in the power of miracles. We clung tightly to the hope that those men, dust-covered and weary, would emerge from the Alma mine to the hugs of grateful families.

But, tragically, in the end, our worst fears were realized. Instead of a joyous reunion, our coal communities had lost two more souls. Fourteen men gone in a span of less than three weeks. Two fatal mine tragedies that might have been prevented. Two emergencies that went unreported for far too long. Two anguishing events where time stood still for hours on end, with rescue teams frustrated and idling, and helpless families waiting.

In this age of high-technology, when reporters at the mouth of a mine could beam reports around the Earth in an instant, it defies logic

that we could not communicate with those men just a few thousand feet underground. When electricity was running all types of comfort-giving and life-saving devices around the globe, it was unbelievable that men who toiled in danger to make that power possible were trapped in primitive conditions, untraceable, with just one precious hour of oxygen.

It was in 1969, spurred by another horrific West Virginia mine disaster, that one at Farmington, that the Congress passed the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act, broad, comprehensive legislation to improve the lot of the miner. In 1977, we reinforced that act, giving the labor Secretary immense powers to protect miners.

Since then, much progress has been made. Tragedies such as these have become less frequent. Yet, as technology enabled our Nation to mine much more coal in much less time with far fewer workers, advances that could improve the conditions for workers in the mines were tragically shoved aside. Mine safety funds were cut. Federal enforcement became lax. Indeed, less than three years ago I stood on this floor of the House of Representatives and offered an amendment to halt the Administration's attempt to allow a fourfold increase in the amount of respirable dust in underground coal mines. A regulation, I would note, that would have resulted in more coal miner deaths due to the crippling disease known as black lung.

Yet the miners kept kissing their families goodbye, whispering a prayer for their own safe return, and going into the mines, into the dark, under tons of rock and dirt, to earn an honest wage.

That so many tools available to the Secretary of labor under existing law have been left to just sit on the shelf while miners continue to die underground is inhumane and inexcusable.

It must stop now.

That is the aim of legislation being introduced by the West Virginia Delegation in the House and the Senate.

This legislation provides what apparently is a necessary roadmap to the Secretary of labor of available statutory authorities which can be implemented immediately to improve health and safety in our underground coal mines. A necessary roadmap, I would point out, in light of the numerous improvements, either already on the books or in the proposal stage, this Administration abandoned in recent years. Following my remarks, I would include in the RECORD an overview and explanation of our legislation, entitled, the "Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006."

Mr. Speaker, shamefully the coalfields of our Nation are littered with examples of how tragedy will always arise when the safety of miners is neglected.

Facing his final moments, trapped in the mine as oxygen waned, miner Powell Harmon wrote:

"Dear Wife and Children: My time has come. I trust in Jesus. He will save. It is now ten minutes to 10 o'clock, Monday morning, and we are almost smothered. May God bless you and the children, and may we all meet in Heaven. Good-bye till we meet to part no more."

That was in 1902, in Tennessee.

Less than a month ago, Martin Toler, Jr., trapped in the Sago mine in West Virginia, left

these words: "Tell all I'll see them on the other side. It wasn't that bad. Just went to sleep. I love you."

Indeed, today the battle cry of Mary 'Mother' Jones, that fiery advocate of coal miner justice during the early part of the last century, rings just as loudly in our ears: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

We can take some comfort in knowing that when those 14 West Virginia miners succumbed to the fire at Melville and the toxic gases of Sago, waiting to welcome them on the other side were generations of miners who know and understand their bravery and love.

But we should, as well, feel with unease the fact that the Mine Safety and Health Administration—vested and empowered by the Congress with necessary authorities—still has not done enough to prevent these tragedies, and in fact, has retreated from many advances in health and safety standards over the recent years.

I aim to ensure that the legacy of the Sago and Alma Miners will be the certainty that those laws are not left to idle on the shelf, but are, instead, enforced to the fullest extent. We owe them, their brothers and sisters still in the mines, and those yet to don a miner's cap, nothing less.

WEST VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 2006

The landmark Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, contains sufficient authority for the Secretary of Labor to update, and enhance, underground coal mine health and safety regulations. Instead, as the unfortunate incidents of last month at the Sago and Melville mines in West Virginia underscored, current Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations and policies are woefully inadequate on several fronts, such as their neglect of advances in technologies that could be deployed to increase the survival of coal miners involved in emergency situations. The "Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006" mandates action to end the status quo. The legislation would—

Sense of Congress

The legislation provides that the Mine Health and Safety Administration should strictly enforce health and safety standards as required under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Enhanced Rescue Requirements

Require the Secretary of Labor, within 90 days of enactment, to implement the following:

(1) Better notification—Require underground coal mine operators to expeditiously provide notification of any accident where rescue work is necessary, and require that the Mine Health and Safety Administration implement a system to immediately receive these notifications.

(2) Rapid emergency response—Each operator would be required to maintain mine rescue teams whose members are employed by the operator and who are familiar with the workings of the coal mine to ensure "an immediate and rapid response to an emergency." This requirement would be in addition to existing practice, in which rescue teams from other mining operations are also used to respond to a given emergency. Operators would also be required to have a coordination and communications plan between mine rescue teams and local emergency re-

sponse personnel, who, under the legislation, would be eligible to receive appropriate training to be familiar with mine rescue work. In addition, the Secretary is directed to issue regulations to address the adequacy of rescue team training and member qualifications, the type of equipment used by the teams, the structure of teams including the number of each team's members and the use of contractor teams, as well as liability and insurance issues.

(3) Emergency air and communications—Each operator would be required to maintain emergency supplies of air and self-contained breathing equipment at strategic locations within the mine for persons awaiting rescue. These devices would be in addition to the rescuers worn by miners and would provide air to maintain life for a "sustained" period of time. Operators would also be required to maintain, at these locations, independent communications systems to the surface for persons awaiting rescue, including, secondary two-way telephone or equivalent communication devices to the surface.

(4) Emergency tracking—Each operator would be required to implement an electronic tracking device for rescue and recovery, and each person in an underground coal mine would be provided with a portable device calibrated to communicate with the surface and with mine rescue teams.

Penalties

Within 90 days of enactment, the legislation requires the Labor Secretary to prescribe minimum civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for a violation of the health and safety standards in instances where an operator displays "negligence or reckless disregard" of the standards. This penalty would be assessed in addition to the Act's existing penalty for failure to correct a violation. The Secretary is also directed to provide for a penalty of up to \$100,000 in instances where an operator fails to expeditiously provide notification of any accident where rescue work is necessary.

Prohibited Practices

The bill reaffirms the existing statute's prohibition on using entries which contain conveyor belts to ventilate work areas in underground coal mines. When mines are arranged this way, and a fire breaks out on a belt, the belt tunnel can carry flames and deadly gases directly to the miners' work area, or to vital evacuation routes. This long-standing prohibition was skirted by an April 2004 Mine Safety and Health Administration rulemaking.

Technological Advances

Under the bill, an Office of Science and Technology Transfer would be established within the Mine Health and Safety Administration to conduct research and development to advance new technologies for underground coal miner health and safety. A periodic review of existing health and safety standards would be required to enable more modern technologies to be incorporated as they become available.

Miner Ombudsman

Proposed to be established within the Labor Department's Office of Inspector General, the legislation would create the position of Miner Ombudsman to ensure that coal miners may confidentially report mine safety and health violations. The ombudsman would also be charged with the collection of safety information, providing information on violations to the Mine Safety and Health Administration for investigation and the overall improvement of coal miner safety.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER DENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS OF UTAH

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated dentists and physicians who volunteer in my home state of Utah to provide much needed care to low-income, uninsured residents in my district.

An estimated one-third of Utah County residents lack dental insurance. Hundreds of thousands of school hours and even more work hours are lost every year due to oral pain when families cannot afford to visit a dentist. In Utah, needy patients are linked with dental providers who are willing to see patients on a charity basis.

For example, a constituent of mine was a patient suffering from severe oral pain due to three abscesses. She had been working full-time; however, she did not have dental insurance through her employment. Even with her full-time wages, she made less than \$1,500 a month—which put her family of four more than 150 percent below the poverty level. Fortunately, through a system of volunteer dentists, this constituent was able to schedule an emergency appointment with one of the dentists in a local volunteer provider network. The dentist was able to see her in his office the next day.

This is just one of many success stories among patients who are treated by volunteer dentists and physicians, none of which would be possible without the dedicated professionals who volunteer to give back to their community. I commend the dentists in Utah who willingly donate their time, their resources, and their skill as dentists to help the less-fortunate members of their own community. Their service and commitment in helping the underserved is a testament to the strength of the local community, and I applaud their efforts.

H.R. 4314, THE “TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE REVISION ACT OF 2005”

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. Our Nation has had to respond to the attacks of September 11th in many different ways, including providing Federal support for our terrorism insurance market.

While I can understand support for an extension of TRIA, I have many concerns about the piece of legislation we will be voting on shortly. Let me highlight a few of them.

First, this bill greatly expands the TRIA program, going so far as to provide Federal assistance for individual lines of insurance, rather than just covering a company's losses in the event of a terrorist attack.

This bill even goes so far as to include a group life insurance component, a sector of the insurance marketplace that has shown no sign of failure.

Allowing this type of line-by-line coverage pushes the government into competitive, pri-

vate insurance markets where it does not belong. A system of this nature will inevitably expose taxpayers to more risk sooner in the process, while at the same time allowing insurance companies to obtain government assistance before it may be necessary.

Further, this bill continues to maintain a very low trigger for when the government would step in. While \$50 million is higher than the current trigger level—set shortly after September 11th—the Department of Treasury had requested a number closer to \$500 million. For a program that was designed to be triggered for catastrophic events only, this higher threshold is perfectly applicable.

While the bill before us is only a two-year extension, it allows for a third year without Congressional approval. I am hard pressed to believe that this will be the final extension proposed.

The Federal Government consists of thousands and thousands of Federal programs created by Congress. Many of these, I am convinced, were started with the intention that they would be temporary. To quote President Reagan, “No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth.”

At some point, after some reasonable transition, either the market demands terrorism reinsurance or it does not. Our opinion should not be the relevant one. The relevant opinion is that of the market.

If the market is not interested in terrorism reinsurance, Congress should not force the matter. If the market does demand this product, we should not assume that the Federal Government needs to be a permanent fixture.

Modifying or eliminating regulations, reducing corporate income tax rates, and preventing the abuse of our legal system are all important factors that, if addressed, would free up massive amounts of capital for insurers and reinsurers.

This additional capital would help to increase the supply of terrorism insurance, leading to a reduction in premium rates, and minimizing the need for a Federal backstop program or Federal involvement at all.

Unfortunately, until we rid the world of the terrorists who seek to destroy us, terrorism insurance will continue to be a fact of life for businesses in this country. Until then, I have faith in our markets and their ability to respond accordingly to the challenges posed by domestic and international events.

Regrettably, I cannot support this legislation but I plan to reluctantly support it.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY LYNNE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Shirley Lynne and reflect on her many wonderful contributions to our community. This is a time of great sadness, made even sadder by the suddenness of Shirley's passing. There was no time to say our good-byes. It is a time of great loss for our community because Shirley was always in the middle of so much that went on—especially in her

Wheaton community. She would always know exactly what was happening in Wheaton, whether it was the Wheaton Metro development, something happening at Wheaton Mall—Westfields that is—or any other happenings in the community. If you wanted to find out what was going on in Wheaton, Shirley was always in the know. These days many people live side-by-side without ever really getting to know their neighbors. Not Shirley. She knew so much that some of us suspected she had tapped into everybody's telephones.

In fact, Shirley got to know her neighbors the old fashioned way—by knocking on their doors and introducing herself. She got to know many of them in her capacity as the Democratic precinct captain. Shirley always had the courage of her convictions. While she was small in height, she had a huge heart and a feisty nature. She never shied away from a tough issue. She always stood up for the underdog and believed deeply in the values and principles of the Democratic Party. Her neighbors mostly followed her lead and she always delivered her precinct for Democratic candidates.

I will always be grateful to Shirley for her support in my Congressional election. She took me door-to-door throughout her precinct and introduced me to her friends and neighbors. She also charmed and cajoled many of them into putting up “Van Hollen” lawn signs. They might have said “no” to me, but no one dared say “no” to Shirley Lynne. Needless to say, we won her precinct. Thank you, Shirley.

Shirley was also deeply committed to helping individuals with mental illnesses. She spent countless hours helping out at the Thrift Shop on Rockville Pike to benefit the Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She never asked for anything in return for all that she did to help that important cause or for the other good works she did for our community.

The health of this great democracy of ours depends on people of good will joining together to build a better future for our community. That was what Shirley Lynne was all about. She did not sit out life on the sidelines. She made a difference through the many lives she touched and the legacy of a stronger and more caring community that she helped to nourish. We need many more Shirley Lynnes.

To Shirley's family, let me say that you are in our hearts and prayers. I especially want to say to Diane, what a wonderful daughter you have been to Shirley. You were best friends and inseparable. I know that you were—and you remain—her greatest joy. Please know that we all share your grief at this painful time, but that we also share your great pride in your mother's many accomplishments.

CHILDREN SHALL LEAD THEM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend a group of young people in Vermont who have done a wonderful thing, worth bringing to the attention of my colleagues in the Congress and the American people.

A group of students in the Sunday School of the United Church in Lincoln, Vermont, have raised over \$5,000 dollars for Heifer International. Lincoln is a beautiful community in